

# MEMORIAL

OF

God's last Twenty nine Years Wonders

IN

# ENGLAND,

For its Preservation and Deliverance from

## Popery and Slavery:

OR,

### A Series of Marvellous Providences

### SHEWING

All the Grand Contrivances, and Deep Hellish Designs,  
for the Extirpation of the Protestant Religion, and Setting up  
Popery and Arbitrary Government in the Land: Together  
with the manner how the Lord Disappointed and Frustrated them.

From the Restitution of *Charles the II.* To the Abolition  
of *James the II.*

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*Psal. 105. 5. Remember the Marvellous Works which he hath done, &c.*

*Job 5. 12. He disappointeth the devices of the Crafty.*

*13. He takes the wise in their own craftyness.*

*— 34. 30. That the Hypocrite Rejoice not, lest the People be ashamed.*

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THE  
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MILITARY

TO

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## To the READER.

Christian Reader,

**T**HE Work now tendred to thy perusal, in relation to the substantial part of the matter, scope use of the whole, is of a Sacred Nature ; it be an account of the Hellish Designs carried on against the Church of God, and True Religion, and the Manner how Lord brought them all to nought, for his own glory and the good his People ; which great works of God, if thou art one that fe him, will be sought out by thee, Psal. I I I. 2. not but that things vil and Sacred are mixt together in order to the aforesaid end. N doth the Work challenge a priviledge beyond all meerly Human Works, of being above all imperfection ; but this the Author do assure thee, that as to all matters of Fact he hath used all manner Caution and Candor, by a diligent search of all the best Authorities the Arbitrariness of these two late Reigns afforded ; upon which account he doubts not of a favourable acceptance of all true real Friends, to the Glory of God, the True Religion, and their Countries Liberties, which were the principal ends of this his undertaking, as he can appeal to Heaven ; and as for those who are Enemies thereunto, though he prays for their Conversion and wishes the wonderful Works of God here declared, may be serviceable thereto ; yet if they wilfully persist in hatred to God and the True Religion, he neither expects nor desires their favour ; concluding in the words of Deborah the Great Prophetess and Governess of Gods People heretofore, (indicted by Gods Spirit) in the case of Sisera their Grand implacable Enemy, So let all thine Enemies perish, O God, but let them that love thee be like the Sun when he goeth forth in his might.

## ERRATA.

Age 5. line 28. for *Hand* r. *Hands*. p.6. l.7. for *laid* r. *hid*. p.7.  
l.4. for *wonder* r. *wonders*. p.26. l.24. for *Except few* r. *Few or*  
*except*. p.26. l.22. for *answers* r. *answer*. p.27. l.33. for *League*  
*eagues*. p.30. l.9. r. *concerned*, and. p.46. l.21. r. *forth*. *In*. p.58.  
for *The Vote* r. *They Vote*. p.59. l.25. for *Prorogations* r. *Proroga-*  
p.62. l.25. for *stilled* r. *stiled*. p.90. l.34. for *Poor* r. *Popes*. p.96.  
for *scorned* r. *scorning*. p.103. l.11. r. *polliceri: res Deus*. p.131.  
for *simple* r. *single*.

THE  
PREFACE  
TO THE  
HISTORY.

**I**T being my Intention, through God's Assistance, to set forth the Series of Wonders, which he, by his Almighty Hand hath wrought in the space of Twenty Nine Years last past for the Preservation and Deliverance of this Nation from Popery and Slavery, I have thought good to mention that Scripture, *Psal. 106. 7.* wherein the Holy Spirit records the Sin of the People of *Israel*, *That they understood not Gods Wonders in Egypt*, as being suitable to the Subject of this Discourse; yet using it not otherwise than Introductory to the Work following: Fearing, that as our Cases have been so like by reason of Idolatry, one main Point of Popery, (set up here as well as in *Egypt*) and Arbitrary Government, the mischief of both which we groan'd under, so we have too many of us been guilty of the same Sin they were, not understanding Gods Wonders in our Egyptian State.

## The Preface.

That place shews their great stupidity and sluggishness of Spirit, whereby they neglected to observe, and seriously consider the wonderful Works of God for their Preservation and Deliverance. They understood not thy Wonders in *Egypt*, לא חשכילו, *Non fecerunt se intelligere*; 'Tis in the Conjugation of *Hiphil*, which signifies, *They did not make themselves understand*; They did not set themselves to ponder and meditate upon the wonderful Dispensations of God's Providence towards them, whereby they might have come to understand God's meaning by them: According to that, *Psal. 107. 43. Who is wise, and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving-kindness of the Lord.* There were divers wonderful Works of God in order to their Deliverance, which had they observed and well weighed, they might have understood his Mighty Hand already put forth to effect it.

'Twas a wonderful work of God, that when they were exceedingly multiplied, and the *Egyptians* to prevent their multiplying, made them serve in all manner of hard Labour with rigour to afflict them; yet the more they were afflicted, the more they multiplied, *Exod. 1. 12.* The Miracle by which God manifested himself to *Moses*, *Chap. 3. 2.* of the Bush burning, and yet not being consumed, was an Emblematical Interpretation of this; and had they considered as they ought, this of it self was a great encouragement and support to their Faith in Deliverance drawing nigh, that notwithstanding all the Rage and Cruelty of their oppressors, and their cunning Plots to diminish and destroy them, God so miraculously preserved and multiplied them.

The raising up such an extraordinary Person as *Moses* at this time, his Extraction out of the Water by the Royal Hand of the Kings Daughter, expressly against the Command of the Tyrant her Father, who had charged all his People to cast every *Hebrew* into the River; his Adoption from a mean servile Condition to be made her own Son; his generous Education, whereby he became learned in all the Wisdom of *Egypt*; the Heroic Endowments of Body and Mind God had blessed him with, being of a lovely Presence, and mighty in Word and Deed; his Preservation  
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## The Preface.

tion from the Debaucheries of the Court till the Fortieth Year of his Age, being kept from those dangerous Snares which Youthful Lusts precipitate most Men into, especially those who have the opportunity to enjoy their fill of them, as *Moses* had; but especially his Superlative Magnanimity, the generous Inclinations of his Soul, which being byassed by Self-denial, Compassion to the Oppressed, Fortitude and Justice, &c. put him upon that truly Noble Design of visiting his afflicted Brethren, and defending and avenging one of them that was oppressed, though with the hazard of his own Life; All these things put together might have given them cause to believe, that he was a Person ordained by God to be the Instrument of some great Work for their Deliverance. And *Moses* thought, when he engaged in this glorious Action (wherein all the Constellation of Christian Vertues above mentioned shined out with greatest Lustre) that his Brethren would have understood, that God by his Hand would deliver them, but they understood it not: Yea, they requited him with the common reward that Publick spirited Men receive, refusing him, reproaching him for a Pragmatick, Seditious Person, who invaded the Rights of the Government, forcing him to fly out of the Land for his Life; which Story is recorded by the Holy Spirit, his everlasting Honour, and their everlasting Shame, *Acts* 7. 2. to 36. But however, they rejected him, and thrust him from them, as the Scripture says, yet God accepted his Noble attempt for the Deliverance of his People; and though it were not Crowned with present Success, according to his hopes, yet it is honoured with so high a Testimony from the Spirit of God that shews in how great esteem it was had with him, upon account of that most excellent frame of Spirit in which it was undertaken, *Heb.* 11. 24, to 28. And God preserved him, and served him to be their Deliverer, and sent him by the hand of the Angel, who appeared to him in the Bush, to bring them out of the Land of *Egypt* by mighty Signs and Wonders which wrought therein, *Acts* 7. 36 So that now by reason of the Angels Presence with him, they durst not refuse him as before;

## The Preface.

what he could not then effect, by reason of their unworthiness, God assisted him to bring about with the Angels help. Yet after all these Signs and Wonders wrought by the Lord, which made the very Magicians give out vying with *Moses*, and cry out, *This is the Finger of God*, *Exod. 8. 19.* by which also themselves were struck with the Plague of Botches, so that they could no longer stand before him, *Exod. 9. 11.* And at last all the First-born of Egypt were slain, from the First-born of *Pharaoh* that sat on the Throne, to the First-born of the Captive in the Dungeon, *Exod. 12. 29.* Behold a wonder of stupidity in the *Israelites*, who did not hereby understand the Omnipotency of that God, by whose Hand all these things were wrought: For when they were brought out into the Wilderness, and saw *Pharaoh* and his Host pursuing them, they cry out unto *Moses*, *Is it because there were no Graves in Egypt, thou hast brought us here to die in the Wilderness?* *Exod. 14. 11, 12.* As if there were no way that God could make for them to escape Destruction from the *Egyptians*, who had so often assured them of a full Deliverance, and wrought so many and great Miracles already before their Eyes in order thereunto.

But Oh the Sluggishness and Inconsiderateness of this People! they did not make themselves understand these Wonders: they did not weigh them thoroughly, and improve them as they ought for future Instruction. How easie else had it been for us to argue with themselves and one another, What reason have we to fear these feeble *Egyptians*? who, if they had been able to have detained us in their Service, would never have let us go; but were by the mighty Hand of our God upon them, compelled to dismiss us, yea, to thrust us out of the Land. He that struck all their First-born with Death in one Night, *Pharaoh's*, as well as others; cannot he as easily strike *Pharaoh* himself and his Host dead, and save us from his Hands? But alas! their Thoughts are so much taken up with *Pharaoh's* Power, that the Power of God ne'er came into them; and they could see nothing else but Death and the Grave, because they considered not the mightiness and Faithfulness of God, who had so often,

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## The Preface.

and by such a series of wonders confounded and frustrated the wicked designs of *Pharaoh* and the *Egyptians* for their destruction.

And now to Apply these things to our selves, I shall speak some of those Wonders suitable to the Dispensation we live under, which God hath wrought for the Preservation and Deliverance of the Protestant Interest, from Popery and Slavery, which for the two Reigns last past, hath much prevailed over it, and was designed wholly to swallow it up; though, I fear, the most part have not set themselves, or made themselves, to understand them as they ought. For though, in our days, God rarely works any such wonders as those in *Egypt*, which strike the senses so immediately and make such sudden and powerful impressions upon Sense and Reason also; yet he works another sort of wonders for his People, which though less observable by unthinking persons, are no less effectual for the Preservation and Deliverance of his Church than the former. And Persons who are Wise and Prudent, and who consider the ways of God, do understand them, *Hos. 14. 2* of which nature I have something to offer in general, and then particular.

In General, three things of this nature, the Scriptures remain in an especial manner, which the Almighty Delights and Glories in.

1. The confounding the Wisdom of the wicked crafty Politicians of this World, striking them with blindness, that they cannot see their way, and frustrating their Designs that they are not able to accomplish them. He disappointeth the Devices of the crafty so that their hand cannot perform their enterprise: They march with darkness in the day time, and grope, in the noon-day, as in the night. And though never so many of them join together in Council, yet God bringeth their Council to nought, that their Decrees cannot stand. *Job 5. 12 & 14. Isa. 8. 10.*

2. The turning their own deep Councils and contrivances upon their own Heads, and making them bring about their own



## The Preface.

5. 13.  
pr. 3. 19.  
eir intentions, and like a man that designs to pitch on his Feet,  
falls on his Head and dashes out his own brains. *The*  
l. 9. 15,  
*Heathen are sunk down in the pit which they made, in the*  
*Net which they laid is their own Foot taken. The wicked*  
*snared in the work of his own Hands.* Haggion Sela. That is, sure-  
ly this is a thing to be much meditated on. And by these Judg-  
ments, *saith the Psalmist*, the Lord is known. *Pharaoh* and his  
Politick Counsellors found this by experience, for they never  
did any more foolish act than when they consulted to deal wisely  
with the *Israelites*, and by cruel oppression to hinder  
d. 1. 10.  
them from multiplying, and so getting out of the Land.  
For their oppression made them groan and cry to the Lord, and  
God hearing their cry sent *Moses* and *Aaron* to deliver them, and  
to destroy the *Egyptians*.

So likewise in that noted case of *Haman*, it fell out; and many  
others mentioned in Scripture.

3. Another thing which God in an especial manner glories in,  
the turning the Counsels of ungodly Politicians, which is le-  
velled at the extirpation of his people, to their Preservation and  
deliverance. So in that place of *Job*, aforementioned, when *He*  
*teeth the wise in their own craftiness*; he adds, *But he saveth the*  
*r from the Sword, from their mouth*, ( for they are beasts of prey  
who would tear the Sheep in pieces if they could ) *and from the*  
*hand of the mighty*. And what is the result hereof? *So, the poor hath*  
*peace, and iniquity stoppeth her mouth*, *Job* 5. 15, 16.

And thus I come to some Particulars, wherein the Hand of  
God hath been eminently manifested, of late years, for the  
preservation of the Protestant Religion, in these Nations, and  
for disappointing and frustrating the designs of the crafty and  
unplacable enemies of it, and the Professors thereof; and car-  
rying their counsels headlong to their own destruction, and the  
benefit of the present: God grant it may prove a perfect deliverance:  
that will be as it is improved.

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THE  
Sacred History  
OF  
GOD's last Twenty nine Years Wonder  
IN  
ENGLAND

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SECT. I.

**T**HE first thing I shall mention, is that Hellish sign of Debauching the Nation, in order to the promoting Popery and Arbitrary Government in Land, making the generality of the People effeminate and brutish; regardless of the Knowledge and Fear of God, and of the State of their Immortal Souls, the Pattern, which the Great ones set them, of Atheism and manner of Prophaneness.

## The Sacred History of God's late

As soon as Popery and Arbitrary Government were resolved to be set up by some, who wore a Protestant Mask, what a Degree of Immorality and Impiety was let into the Land? Oh! how was it overflowed, in a few months, in all parts, with Quarrelling, Fighting, Swearing, Cursing, Drunkenness, Whoredom, and all manner of Abominations? The Roads, Streets, Houses, ringing with Dammees and strange new invented Blasphemies; Ale-house-drinking, Revelling, obscene Discourse, every where bounding; so that one who would not Swear, Drink, and murther with them, if he came into company he was not acquainted with, incurred the hazard of his life; as I my self have often experienced. Indeed, for almost thirty years last past, the Land hath been, as *Isaiah* speaks of *Israel*, *Isa. i. 1 to 7.* a *Sodom and Gomorrah*, and notwithstanding all Gods corrections, *revolted more and more: the whole head sick, the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot to the head, no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrified sores, which have not been closed, nor bound up, nor eased with ointment.* So that had it not been for a small remnant God hath had in it, we had been as *Sodom*, and we should have been like unto *Gomorrah*. And now when they had qualified the Nation for their purpose, as they thought, by a long course of Debauchery; and filled all Places with as many profligate Persons as they could get; and they judged the Nation fitted, Wax for the Seal, to receive their impression: Popery and Arbitrary Rule throws off its Vizard, and shews its bare and bold face, resolving to outbrave and crush all its opposers. But lo! the hand of the Lord is stretched out against them, and he disappointed their crafty devices, so that their hands could not perform their enterprize, and their Counsel is carried headlong. Though they had got as many Men of profane lives into Navy, Army, Places Civil, and to many Ecclesiastical, as was possible, doubting they would obey their commands, and serve their Masters; when they come to be tryed, God that hath the hearts of all men in his hand, and turns them which way he pleaseth, so he ruled their hearts, that instead of serving their Masters ends, they

## *Twenty nine Years Wonder in England.* 9

they turn against them, and are as instrumental as any to cast off the yoke of Popery and Slavery. That Men who had no Religion in Truth and Power, should be made instruments of preserving true Religion, with the hazard of their own lives; that Men who were slaves to their Lusts should shew such hatred and zeal against a Religion that gives them the fullest indulgence in their Lusts their hearts can wish for; that Men whose transgressions declared there was no fear of God before their Eyes, *Psal.* 36. 1. whose wicked works shew'd they were enemies to God, *Col.* 1. 21. should in the time of trial appear on his side, as *Exod.* 32. 26. May it not well cause us to break out into admiration, and say with the Apostle, *O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his Judgments, and his ways past finding out!* *Rom.* 11. 33.

### SECT. II.

**A**Nother deep Design in order to the promoting Popery, was to set Protestants to destroy one another, by Enacting and Executing most cruel Laws about Religion, whereby the most Prevalent might ruin and devour the rest; Lording it over their Persons, breaking open their Doors, rifling their Houses, seizing their Estates, casting them into filthy Prisons, where by close confinement multitudes perished, convicting them without Hearing or Jury; and that for nothing but worshipping God after his Word, according to the best light they had therein; and all this while the Persecutors were but instruments to serve Popish ends; for those who instigated them to this basest of drudgeries, expected these effects from it. That the Persecuting Party who were countenanced and supported by them, would by interest as well as gratitude be obliged to shew them kindness when they should have occasion to ask it. As for the persecuted, many of them would conform  
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to

to the Laws rather than endure the severities of them, though to the wounding of their Consciences ; and they whose Consciences could stretch to one Law, could also stretch to another for Worldly ends, and might be easily brought over to their Religion when time should serve. And they who stood faithful to their Principles would be glad to be relieved against the rigor of the Laws, and violence of their Persecutors, thankfully embracing a general liberty when offered ; in which the Catholicks being comprehended, their Church having all the advantages above others, the Government could afford, could not fail of a great encrease ; and the hatred between the Persecutors and Persecuted being irreconcilable, the latter in any case of difficulty would stand by them who were their Benefactors and Deliverers.

But though the contrivance was rational, the event did not answer thereto ; for God who is Infinite in Wisdom, and Almighty in Power, frustrated their expectations in every thing above mentioned. For as for those who had been supported in that extravagant and Arbitrary Power over their Brethren by them, when Popery thought good openly to appear, and set up for it self, though they were acted by such Blind Zeal, that they were content to become Scaffolds for its ascending the Throne, and the present supporting the same, and humble supplicants (by their Addresses) to it there, yet in the Pulpits they declaimed bitterly against it ; and while they professed the greatest Loyalty and Honour for their Popish King that was imaginable ; yet from Pulpits and Presses both, they continually poured reproach and dishonour upon his dearest Friends and Religion, which could not possibly have any other effect than the rendring his Person and Government odious to the people. And now what would be given for an *Oedipus* that could resolve this profound mystical point of Theology, so contradictory to sense and reason ? But although the mystery of Transubstantiation

## *Twenty nine Years Wonder in England.* 11

tiation of the Bread and Wine in the Lords Supper, into the substance of Flesh and Blood, being a Doctrine taught by Popish Priests, is rejected by Protestants as repugnant to sense and reason as well as Scripture; yet this being taught by those who profess the Protestant Religion, though equally repugnant to all, was received by their Disciples. And if you will believe them, well understood; and their Loyalty to the Popish King they had set up remains untainted to this day.

But to be plain, in stead of the reciprocal support they expected from the Party they had supported, Thoughtful Men could imagine nothing else, but that they heard in all parts of the Land, Drums beating, and Trumpets sounding, from Press and Pulpit, to call in Auxiliaries against them; which the event proved to be true. Thus their expectations were disappointed from the Persecuting Party, whom they had so highly Caressed and Countenanced for their own ends.

Their expectations from the Persecuted Party failed them as much; for those who had strained their Consciences to a compliance with the Worship publicly enjoined (for avoiding the penalties of the Laws) so long as it had the name of Protestant, they would not be induced by fear or favour to a compliance with Popery, though it was fixed in the Throne; but firmly adhered to the former Party in opposition to it; whether out of Conscience or Policy, as embracing that which they judged the strongest side, the Searcher of hearts knows. The rest who had born the heat of the Day of Persecution, which was so intense, that it had scorched many of their Brethren to Death, and they knew not how soon it would do them, no wonder if they readily embraced a shade. But though the Addresses made by several of them (for many refused it) cannot be vindicated, as favouring of sordid flattery, and promising to support and defend a Popish Throne, which is as contrary to their Religion



as darkness to light; yet the generality of their addresses containing only matter of thanks for the present benefit they received, may be, at least, in part excused, by the intolerable Persecution they had long suffered, and the frailty of humane Nature, which is very apt to be so affected with present good as to forget the danger of future evil; or indeed, like the silly Fish to catch at the bait, not regarding the hook that is under; for the known Maxim of the Romish Church, *No Faith with Hereticks*, confirmed by their constant practice when-ever they get Power, and particularly by the late horrid Massacre in *France*, affords sufficient instruction to Protestants to let them know what trust or thanks they owe to the promise of Popish Princes. But whatever guilt this latter sort of Addressers may have incurred, I am sure their Persecutors, whose cruelty was the cause of it, will be found far more guilty before the Righteous Throne of God.

However a general liberty being granted, and the Papists over and above having the Government sure on their side, thought that Converts would have flockt into their Churches, like Doves to the windows, but the Lord kept the Peoples hearts from closing with them; so, that though they saw all Preferment lay that way, they generously scorned to comply with it: Except few the very grossest *Faces* of the Nation coming in to them; such as though they durst not refuse, they were ashamed of, and their new Converts brought more reproach then honour to their Church. 'Tis true, at first, many People went to their Meetings, for Novelties sake, to see their fashions, but they turned it all into ridicule when they came there, and returned with much more hatred and indignation against them than they had before; and they grew thinner every day, till at last they dwindled away till next to nothing; and the Lord spirited the Multitude to break in pieces their Idolatrous Utensils which the Magistrates neglected.

And



And as the Liberty of their publick Meetings, which they had so long waited for, when they enjoyed it, stood them in little stead for the encrease of their Church; so the Liberty they granted the Dissenters did them as little Service for their preservation in the time of their extremity: For the Dissenters saw by the Violation of their Promises to the Church of *England*, who had exalted them to the Throne, for what ends they were at present indulged, and how long the treacherous and temporary Liberty they enjoyed was like to last, till their own turns were served thereby: And therefore in the time of their Calamity, left them to shift for themselves; insomuch, that of all the whole Party, there were none to be found who countenanc'd or pityed them, but a few sneaking Hireling Regulators, a kind of Renegadoes of the Protestant Religion, who were afraid of being called to account for what they had acted as Popish Tools, for Subversion thereof; and some few of their Familiars, whom they had influenced against the Prince of *Orange's* Glorious Undertaking; but the Whole of the Dissenting Party besides joyning with all other Protestants, prayed for his Prosperity, longed for his Arrival, assisted him with their Persons and Purfes, when his occasions required it, as generously as any, and were ready to have done much more had there been need. And thus we see by the wonderful hand of God all the Popish Devices aforementioned were defeated, and their Councils carried headlong.

S E C T. III.

**A**N D now to the third Particular, wherein the wonder-working Arm of the Lord was revealed, for saving the Protestant Interest in this Nation; and that is the preservation of our Neighbour Nation and Brethren in Religion, the *Hollanders*, in that bloody War begun in the year 1665 which was contrived by the Popish Councillors of this Nation

Nation for the Destruction of them and us : For had they once destroyed them , our Destruction had inevitably followed soon after ; for as God hath made that Nation the greatest *Asylum*, or Sanctuary of all distressed Protestants in the whole World, from the time they commenced a Free State to this day ; so hath he strengthened and honoured them, though a little People, to be the great Bulwark of *Europe* against Popery and Slavery, for about Thirty Years last past ; which in all appearance had long before this over-run it, had not the Lord enabled them to resist the Assaults, and break the Attempts of the mighty Tyrants of the Earth : And that most noble Vindicatrix of Liberty, *Amsterdam*, justly claims a peculiar, yea, the principal share in that Honour ; for had those overgrown *Leviathans* prevailed to rase her Foundations, the persecuted Protestants would not have known where to find a place of that safety and conveniency on Earth: For though many zealous Protestants, whose Heat much exceeds their Light, have been ready to reproach *Holland*, and particularly *Amsterdam*, as a Sink and Nursery of all Errors, because they protect all Men as Men, and leave them to their Liberty to worship God according to the knowledge they have of him ; yet 'tis because themselves are leavened with that pestilent Error, which some blind Priests have infused into them, That Force ought to be used in matters of meer Religion ; a Principle directly opposite to the Tenor and Spirit of the Gospel. Such Persons little know of what importance that People, and especially that City, are to the whole Protestant Interest, yea, Liberty of the World ; and that themselves owe not only their own well-being under God to them, but perhaps their being also, for had the Popish Princes subdued them, we have no reason to believe, that our Case e're this had not been as bad as that of the French Protestants is, multitudes of whom have been murdered, the rest either forced to fly their Country, or abjure their Religion. But though in this War the Lord suffer

ferred them to be sorely distressed, the Island of *Schelling* and Ships there being burnt, and many other together with their Admiral blown up or burnt in Fight, and were in danger of utter ruine, had their Enemies prosecuted their advantage throughly ; and the French, who were in a feigned League with them, betraying them, and doing them no service ; yet the Lord saved them from Destruction, and in the end gave them the advantage over their Popish Enemies, and enabled them to retaliate their Injuries, by burning and carrying away their principal Ships as they lay in Harbours at home ; so disabling them thereby, that they were forced to seek Peace, by the help of the French King, their real, but the Dutch pretended Friend.

S E C T. IV.

**T**HE next thing I shall mention, is, the burning of *London*, and Suburbs, another Hellish and Popish Contrivance for the Destruction of the Protestant Religion, which, though God for our Sins hath suffered them in part to effect, yet as to the end for which they undertook it, the advancing their own Religion, and ruining the Protestant, the Lord hath wonderfully disappointed them, as I shall shew in several Particulars, for Proof whereof we have not only the Oaths of Doctor *Oats* and Mr. *Bedloe*, but a multitude of concurrent Testimonies in the account of the several Informations exhibited to the Honourable Committee, appointed by the Parliament to enquire into the dreadful Burning of the City of *London* in the Year 1666. to which I must refer you, and divers others since.

1. 'Tis manifest that their design in that dreadful Conflagration, was not only destroying the Houses and Goods by Fire, but the Persons of the Citizens by Sword ; and that they had contrived to Massacre the Citizens while they were

were under that dreadful Consternation and Confusion. See *Woodman's Words to Baker*, p. 7. of Informations spoken a Week before the Fire, *If you live one Week longer, you shall see London as sad a London as ever it was since the World begun, and in some short time after he should see as bloody a time as ever was since England was England.* Also *Bedloe's Narrative of the Fire of London*, p. 1. *They hoped then to gain an Opportunity of putting in execution their long-designed General Massacre.* And besides those thousands of Cut-throat Russians they had engaged in that horrid Villany, there's cause enough to suspect the Guards as Confederates for that purpose, who were such faithful Friends to the Incendiaries in their Discovery, as to rescue them out of the hands of those who apprehended them, and take them into their Protection during all the Fire; and being once got into their hands, they were safe enough from Justice. For this see Informations, p. 12, 17, 18, 20. The Committees' Report, p. 10. *Bedloe's Narrative*, p. 11, and 16. As if they had been sent on purpose to guard them, and help carry on the Fire. Nay, some of them were taken in the very Act of burning Houses, and the rest, though they were informed of it, rescued them out of the Peoples Hands. For which see p. 21. beginning. Oh! horrid perfidiousness! Stopping up the Passages, and hindring those who came as faithful Helpers to extinguish the Fire, by threatening Language, and rough treating them; so that they seemed more like men appointed to promote, than suppress the Fire, and to assist in the latter part of the Tragedy intended, only waiting for the Word of Command. But whoever they were that had the Conduct of this execrable Secret, the Lord shewed himself in the Mount, and sent such a Terror into their Spirits, that *the stout-hearted were afraid, and their men of might could not find their hands*, Psal. 76.5. for which so great and seasonable a Mercy, not only the People of London and England have cause to sing Hallelujah, but the whole Protestant Party, as long as the Sun and Moon endure.

2. Whereas they resolved to humble the Pride, and bring down the Glory and Strength of *London*, so that it should no longer be such a Support to the Protestant Interest at home and abroad as it had been, herein the Lord frustrated their Design; for by Divine Favour, *London*, after that severe Chastisement, was re-edified in a very few years, and much exceeded its Pristine Glory, while they look'd on with Indignation and gnashing of Teeth, because they could not obstruct it; and in despite of their Diabolical Rage, was as great a support to the Protestant Interest, Foreign and Domestick, as ever.

3. Whereas they thought by the timing of this Conflagration of the Metropolis of Protestantism in the Year 1666. which was the Year long before predicted, and generally expected for the Downfal of *Rome* the Metropolis of the Papacy, (though for my part I have often declared, that I saw no ground for it) to shake the Faith, and enfeeble the Hearts of the Protestant Party, when they should see *London's* Downfal in the Year they expected *Rome's*. See *Langhorn's* Words to Mr. *Light of Ratchiff*, p. 6. of Informations, *You expect great things in Sixty Six, and think that Rome will be destroyed; but what if it be London?* This was spoken above Six Months before *London* was burnt. Also Mr. *Alton's* Letter from *Heydelburg*, p. 14. Dated Sept. 29. 1666. *The Burning of London hath been constantly expected, and discoursed of among the Jesuits to my knowledge for these Fifteen Years last past, as to happen this year, in which they also promise to themselves and others the Introduction of the publick Exercise of the Catholick Religion:* And that by this Hellish Machination, Men would mightily fall off from our Church to theirs. It proved otherwise, for though some high-flown conceited Persons, who fancied their Sense of that Prophecy to be Infalible, when they found they were deceived, might desert

the Protestant Ensigns, yet more came in to them, and the Parliament and Nations also rose higher in Zeal and Resolution against Popery after, than before the Fire: And this deep Contrivance, (as indeed it was, hatched in the lowest Hell) on which they much depended, and of which they before-hand boasted, telling Protestants, *You say Babylon shall be destroyed in 1666. and that Rome is Babylon; but what if it should prove to be London? where's your Faith then?* I say, as deep as it was, it did not answer expectation, but quite contrary, and they were taken in their crafty Devices.

4. Whereas this infernal Plot of theirs was so contrived, as to cast the Odium of it upon Protestants, and lie concealed themselves, for which end they had trapped several Protestants above 4 Months before-hand into their Net, whereby they came to be accused, that they had plotted the Burning of *London*, in the beginning of *September* next following; this Plot for burning of *London* was their own, and the time, that very time in which they themselves after executed it; and these poor Men through their Treachery were made Sacrifices before hand, for blinding the Peoples Eyes, and casting the Guilt of that horrid Fact (when themselves should perpetrate it) on the Fanaticks, that so they might have the better opportunity to massacre them at that time, the multitude joyning to carry on that bloody Tragedy; looking on the Fanaticks as Authors of the Fire; which was afterward brought to light, and fully discovered by Dr. Oats and Mr. Bedloe: And this Design was an exact Transcript of the Copy of that eternally infamous Author *Nero*, who caused *Rome* to be set on Fire, and then threw it on the Christians.

And now I call to mind a Passage I my self was ear-witness to, which happened about the middle of that dreadful Fire, and I think not unworthy here to mention.

Two Friends that lodged at that time in one House, one staying within, and the other going abroad to see how it was



## Twenty nine Years Wonder in England. 19

was with the Fire; upon his Return, the other ask'd him, How he found it, and whether there were any hopes of extinguishing it? To which he answered, *That the Flames advanced with as great Fury as ever, and there was no hopes of putting out the Fire, but that it would burn as far as the utmost contiguous Buildings extended.* Whereto the other replied, *I do not fear that; for I think you need not doubt but the Fire will be extinguish'd before it come to the Tower and Somerset-House;* which accordingly came to pass. So that this Person smelt both the Fire and the Authors thereof together.

Notwithstanding they have prevailed when the Government was in their Hands, to obliterate out of the Monument the Testimony of their Burning *London* in the year 1666, which was engraven on stone by order of the Magistrates for the Information of Posterity, and everlasting abhorrency of Popery; yet blessed be God they were not suffered to proceed so far as to suppress the several Informations given in to the Honourable Committee of Parliament, Printed in the year 1667. which do in despite of all the Power they lately had, and I hope ever shall, remain a Monument of their Infamy, and the Worlds Caution; God having wonderfully brought it to pass, that what they had contrived with so much subtilty to keep secret, should be made so manifest and publick to that end.

I could add a great deal more on this Subject of the dreadful Fires which they have since kindled; for consuming several parts of the Suburbs, as the great Fire of *Southwark*, May 26. 1676. which consumed Five Hundred Houses in the best and richest part thereof, which *Grove* (afterward executed) confessed he himself began by order of Father *Strang* their Provincial, and he and three Irish Men were paid a thousand Pound by *Strange* for effecting the same. That at *Lime-House*, Sept. 18. 1678. which was designed not only to consume the Houses on Shore, as *Belloe* Evidences, but Ships on the River, (though God prevented it) and was undertaken some



Weeks after the Discovery of the Plot, by Dr. *Oates*, taking so good effect, that it burnt 40 or 50 Houses. Divers others were resolved by them, some effected, many more through Gods Mercy discovered and prevented; and this brings me to the most memorable Disappointment they received in this Cursed Design of Conflagration the last year.

5. Their last Design for Refflagration of this great and honourable Metropolitan Protestant City by Bombs, was by a wonderful hand of God frustrated, and all the direful Concomitants thereof, whereby in case it refused to assist them, they resolved they would make it an Example of their utmost revenge, render it useless to the Protestant Interest, and deter all other Cities from opposing them for the future. To that end they had placed a Governor of the Roman Religion there, who was every way fitted for the purpose, Sir *Edward Hales*, one who had not only threatned to Bomb the City, as you may read in Mr. *Whitties* Diary of the Prince of *Orange's* Expedition, p. 56. but actually mounted several Mortar-pieces on the *White-Tower* in order thereto. But the same God that was on our side in preventing the Massacre they intended in the Fire, 1666. mercifully saved us at this time from Fire and Massacre both, by striking such Terror into them, that their Fear would not permit them to effect what their Malice had contrived, and was in their Heart as well as Power to perform; and we have cause for ever to bless the Lord, who hath not given us as a Prey to their Teeth, and to put up a Stone of Memorial upon this particular account, with this Inscription, *Eben-Ezer*; saying as good *Samuel*, *Hitherto the Lord hath helped us*, 1 Sam. 7. 12.

#### S E C T. V.

**H**AVING shewn what wonderful Preservation God hath wrought for the Protestant Religion by frustrating the

## *Twenty nine Years Wonder in England.* 21

the Designs of our Enemies in the War abroad, and Fires at Home, Plotted for our utter ruin, I come to shew our Deliverance from another snare they had layed for us, and that is, a Treacherous Peace, more dangerous then a declared War. That so being lulled into a profound sleep of security they might come upon us with the greatest advantage, when they saw their opportunity; and effect that by feigned Amity, which they could not by open Enmity. I mean that infamous League between Us, *Holland*, *Sweedland*, the two Principal Nations of the Protestant Profession, thence called the Triple League, projected and prosecuted by our Masquerade Protestants, for the mutual destruction of the whole Triplicity.

Such a generation of Men the Scripture often speaks of; *Jeremiah* in his time, *Jer.* 9. 1 to 10. *had his habitation in the midst of deceit; every Brother would utterly supplant: they had taught their Tongue to speak lies and deceit; and when they spake peaceably with their mouth, they lay in wait with their hearts.* *David* also in his time, *Psal.* 64. 2, 5. *Prays God to hide him from the secret Councel of that wicked generation, who commune of laying snares privily against the upright, saying, Who shall see us?* And indeed no hatred so pernicious as that, which is covered with deceit, *Prov.* 26. 26. especially to sincere hearted Men, who mean uprightly in their transactions, and are prone to believe others do the same; and this easie credulity, above all other things, hath been the cause of the Protestants ruin at all times, as might easily be demonstrated from History. No sooner was this League proposed in the year 1668, but the Honest hearted *Hollanders* embraced it, and it is concluded in four or five days time, and the *Swede* shortly after comes into it; the People of *England* rejoyce, beyond expression, to hear of a League Offensive and Defensive, made between these principal Protestant Countries, for suppressing the growth of *France*; applauding their Governors, and magnifying their project for preservation of our Land and Religion,

gion, as if we had now been built upon a sure and lasting foundation. But alas! it proved a very sandy one in the sequel; for when the Protestants were laid fast asleep, without any fear or jealousy of double dealing, and expected *England* effectually to contribute to the Humiliation of *France*, according to the League; there's a secret Anti-triple League struck up between Us and *France*, in the year 1670. for making War upon *Holland*, as the effects afterwards made manifest, though for the present it lay occult. This Clandestine League was afterwards Printed in *France*, in the year 1682. but by the earnest solicitation of our Ambassador there, to the French King, as being prejudicial to his Masters affairs to expose it publickly, was called in; yet not so suppressed, but that some Copies of it were obtained and preserved for information of the Protestants in this and other Nations. Not to mention other particulars thereof, that which is most to my purpose, to which they were mutually engaged, was the overthrow of the Protestant Religion, and establishing Popery in *England* and *Holland*, and the utter extirpation of that Pestilent Northern Heresie, as *Coleman* words it.

Neither need we fly to the Copy Printed in *France* for proof of it, for when our Ambassadors were dispatched thither, to treat of Peace, in Conjunction with those of *France* and *Holland*, one Article they had order to insist on as indispensable, was the Concession of the States to the publick Profession of the *Roman* Catholick Apostolick Religion throughout all the Provinces. So that wheresoever there should be more than one Church, another should be given to the Catholicks; that where there is none, they shall be permitted to build one, and till that be finished, to exercise their Divine Service publickly in such Houses as they shall buy or hire for that purpose; and that the States General or each Province in particular, shall appoint a reasonable salary, for a Curate or Priest in each of the said Churches, out of such Revenues as have formerly appertained to the Church, or other-

otherwise. This the King of *France* declared was the cause of the War he then made upon *Holland*, for the setting up the true Religion there; which would they embrace, he would lay down his Arms presently. And this was it our Plenipotentiaries were to abide by, and never upon any account whatever depart from; and upon no other terms the States were assured they could have Peace with *England*. But notwithstanding the great extremity they laboured under by reason of an Invasion of two such mighty Monarchs by Sea and Land, to their immortal Honour they took up an Heroick resolution, whatsoever case they were reduced to, to maintain the Protestant Religion to the last drop of blood. And as they kept the way of the Lord, and had not wickedly departed from their God in this hour of great Temptation; So the Lord recompensed them according to their Righteousness, according to the Cleanness of their hands in his Eyesight, *Psal.* 18. 21, 24. Preserving them and their Religion against the fury of two such Great enraged Potentates, who with their united Forces thought to swallow them up quick. And certainly had done it, had not the Lord been on their side, *Psal.* 124. 2, 4. Which deliverance as it affords matter of great Admiration for all future Ages, so likewise of more than ordinary thanksgiving, and instruction to all Protestants, and us of this Nation in particular; but more especially to those herein, who combined or wished for their overthrow. And for this end I shall offer two most remarkable instances worthy of serious consideration and perpetual remembrance.

The one is the Case of a great Person, a Protestant, now Deceased, whom I need not name, the thing being so well known; who when he had ascended to the top of the Highest Pinacle of Honour this Nation could confer on a Subject; thinking his own condition Safe, in a Speech to the Parliament, during this War, declaiming against *Holland*, commended this politick Council to them; *Delenda est Carthago:*  
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in English, *Holland must be Destroyed*; as if the safety of *England* had consisted in the ruin of *Holland*. And yet some years before his Death was taken down from that Pinacle, upon the account of his asserting the Protestant Religion so highly in his Station, and forced over the Seas for his Life, and then could find no Country so fit for his Protection as *Holland*, nor any City as *Amsterdam*: who most Christianly passing by his mischievous advise for their extirpation, (though 'twas impossible to forget it) received him into their Arms, and shelterd him till he Died. This Example ought to be a warning to all who do or may come to understand it, to take heed of traducing or undermining their innocent Neighbors, lest God in his just Judgment bring them to that distress, that they may be forced to become supplicants unto them whom they have injured.

The next is our present Case. What cause have we to look back and wonder at that infinite Wisdom and Goodness which preserved that Nation in this War also, whom so many Protestants of this Nation sought then to destroy, in order to deliverance of usall in general, and them in particular? How many red hot Sermons and wild Fire Prayers were made against them by many Superlative Zealots in the Church, whose Ambition prompted them to signalize their Loyalty thereby, who have seen sufficient cause since that, to Preach and Pray quite Backward? But that is no strange thing to such Persons who will Preach and Pray any thing their Superiors command, right or wrong. But because I hope many of their Eyes are now opened to see the vileness of such a practise, I spare them. And for those great Men yet surviving, who offered or complied with that most Antiprottestant Council, *Delenda est Carthago*, I wish they may learn from this great deliverance God hath wrought for them, in a way quite contrary to their Consultations, to discern the short-sightedness and folly of the greatest humane Wisdom, and to consult more, for time to come, the Rules of God's Word

Word then Rules of Policy, in matters especially which concern Justice and Religion; lest as they have been formerly, so they should be again found fighters against God, and their own and their Countries good. For there seems to us no other visible way for *England* to have cast off the yoke of Popery and Slavery at this day, had not God reserved the Dutch to be the Instruments for accomplishing it, under the conduct of that most renowned Captain the then Prince of *Orange*, at present our Victorious King, whom together with his Royal Consort, God long preserve to his own glory and his Churches good.

Thus you see how God defeated the Councils which were taken for destroying the Dutch, by a feigned friendship, the better to extirpate the Protestant Religion both there and here, and brought things about quite contrary, reserving the Dutch for instruments of their Destruction and our Deliverance; yea, for the saving many of those blind Protestants, who contributed unto, and would have rejoiced at that time in their ruin. *O how unsearchable are his Judgments, and his ways past finding out!*

But before I leave this Treacherous Triple League, made on our side with a double Heart, I shall shew what Intrigues and Stratagems were hid in the belly of that *Trojan Horse*, which were the product of a secret League between *France* and us, to frustrate all the good the *Hollanders* expected by the former; and then how the Lord frustrated them of the ends they proposed to themselves in all their measures, and turned all their devices to their own confusion.

The Resolution being taken of making War in time of Peace, the first thing was to wheedle the Parliament into a belief of the great benefit we and the whole Protestant interest had and were like to reap from the Triple League; for which end they were Convened, *O Job.* 24. 1678. and an elegant Speech made by the Lord Keeper, setting forth the great obligations the Nation lay under to his Majesty  
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upon account of that and several other Leagues he had made for their good ; in order to maintaining whereof he was necessitated to ask a proportionable supply from them, for whose benefit he had entred into such Alliances: who never penetrating through such specious pretences, granted him a supply in three several Bills amounting to at least two Millions and an half. A good fund for carrying on the War concluded by the secret League, and might well have sufficed with good husbandry ( a faculty unknown at our Court) for the same.

But as they thought they had well counted the cost of subduing the Dutch, so they were resolved to leave no ways of getting money, whether *per fas* or *nefas*, unattempted. And therefore another perfidious project they had of shutting up the Exchequer, which by Duckoying, with excessive gain, the great Goldsmiths, and by them the rest of the Nation for some years past, was credited with two Millions of money ; and so violating their own Faith, and ruining multitudes of Families, and putting the People into an universal Consternation, to hear of such unpresidented Treachery acted by the Government : So that now, if ever, it might be said, *Publica fides punica fides* ; but however the means answers the end exactly, both being the fruits of a heart lying in wait to deceive.

And that exact Harmony might be kept between their actions at home and abroad , they resolve in a time of Peace, when the Dutch were not in the least Jealous of infringing the League, but sailed securely through our Seas with a great and opulent Fleet, from *Spain* and *Smyrna*, to surprize them unawares, and seize that Mass of Treasure, to maintain the War they intended against them, without that difficult and dangerous way of Parliamentary Aid, which they hoped from henceforth, their grand Design of Popery being by this War accomplished, they should never more have need of.

And



## Twenty nine Years Wonder in England. 27

And that the Nation might be charmed into quietness while all these Villanies (as great as ever the Sun beheld in their kind) were acted, they pretend a generous love to Liberty, and tenderness to Dissenters, and therefore emit a Declaration for Liberty of Conscience. But when the Fox preaches let the Geese beware, for that which really was thereby intended was to advance Prerogative above Law, by assuming a Dispensing Power, which if admitted in one case, might be extended in time to as many as they saw good; and also to give Popery the opportunity of appearing publick, without fear of controul from any zealous Protestants who by the Law were entrusted with Power to suppress it.

But now 'tis worth our consideration, how the Lord disappointed all these crafty Devices for supplanting the Protestant Religion.

For the Dutch Fleet of Merchantmen, with the help of those few Convoys they had, not exceeding five or six, made so stout resistance, that the valiant *Hero* who was sent to make prize of them, was fain to return *re infecta*, bringing home instead of the great spoil expected, battered Ships and broken Bones. And indeed the hand of God was wonderfully seen herein, who made a way for them to escape; for though Sir R. H. who was entrusted with the execution of this important Design, shewed as much gallantry and resolution as could possibly be expected, yet his overmuch confidence in his own Strength was the occasion of this miscarriage; for he not only slighted the assistance of Sir E. S. who was then in sight with his Squadron of Ships, but called back a Captain that was going to acquaint him with the Design, whereby the business was lost, and the Honour and Faith of those who employed him, so exposed to all the Nations round about, that there was none would trust in their League, or Alliance afterward, who had shewn themselves such notorious Faith-breakers.

## 28 *The Sacred History of God's last*

And their Dishonorable surprize of the Dutch in a time of Peace, was fully requited by *De Ruyters* Honourable surprize of them in open War, about two months after, as their Ships lay at Anchor in *Soul-Bay*, when their Admiral *Mouniague* and Nine or Ten brave Captains more were sacrificed upon accompt of this Treacherous War.

As for that vast preparation they had made of a fund to carry on the War, by deluding the Parliament, under pretence of supporting the Leagues of Peace, before mentioned, to give two Millions and a half of mony, and shutting up the Exchequer when they were gone; it was so wasted and imbezelled, that before a year came about, they were reduced to so great exigence, that they were necessitated to have recourse to Parliament again for fresh supplies, (as contrary to their Wills now, as it was to their Hopes at the first beginning of the War, when to the spoils of the Exchequer, they had designed to add the spoils of the Dutch Merchant-fleet) and could obtain none but upon such hard terms as proved destructive to their own Designs, as I shall shew immediately; and that also being spent, their utmost importunities could extort no more from the Parliament while the War lasted.

The measures they took concerning Religion proved also as false and pernicious to themselves as any of the rest; for their pretence of indulgence to tender Consciences was seen through by the Parliament, and by wise Dissenters also, and was discerned to be only a subtil expedient, for procuring a free exercise of the Popish Religion, in order to the gradual subversion of the Protestants; and though it carried the Countenance of restraint upon the Papists more then upon the Protestants, because the former were prohibited publick meetings, which were allowed the latter, yet 'twas no other but dissimulation, to blind the peoples eyes at present, that Popery might the easier get admittance; for it was known sufficiently to the Parliament, and intelligent persons among  
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the Protestant Dissenters, that the business of our Plenipotentiaries, sent over to *Holland* a few Months after the Declaration of Liberty came out, was to compel the States of the United Provinces not only to allow the publick Exercise of the Roman Catholick Religion throughout all their Dominions, but to grant Salaries to Popish Priests, as I have shewn before : Upon which account the Parliament were so dissatisfied with the Declaration of Liberty, that they never were quiet till the King had annul'd it; yea, 'tis very observable, that Alderman *Lave*, a City Member of the House, though a noted Dissenter, was the principal Man that opposed it there: So that God turned the Hearts of such as they thought to make the Instruments for promoting it, to be the Instruments of rejecting it.

The Parliament also were now so thoroughly awakened with the sense of the danger the Nation was in from Popery, they took the advantage of the present necessity of Money the Court laboured under, and would grant no Bill for Supply, without a Bill were sign'd by the King for excluding Papists from all Places of publick Trust and Employment, which Fence, tho they doubted not in convenient time they could easily pull up by another Parliament fitted for their Turn, yet they found it so strong, that after Popery had enjoyed the Possession of the Throne almost four years, it stood firm, and all their endeavours could never throw it down; but the attempting thereof proved one great, if not the very principal Cause of their Ruine. And so the Lord took these wise Politicians in their own Craftiness. But if we well weigh the occasion upon, and the end for which this Act was made, to prevent the Dangers from Popery, as appears by the Circumstances above-mentioned, together with the Title of the Act, viz. *An Act for preventing Dangers which may happen from Popish Recusants*; and the Favor the House of Commons shewed at the same time to Protestant Recusants, by the Bill they sent up to the Lords on their behalf, (tho they were Pro-

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rogued before it could pass that House,) It seems exceeding strange, to say no more, to see this Act at this time of the day, when the Nation is engaged in the greatest War against Popery that ever it was, made use of, as a Bar to exclude Dissenting Protestants from all Places of Trust, Civil and Military, whereby their King and Country both are deprived of the help so considerable a part of the Nation are able, and willing to afford in Defence of the Protestant Cause, wherein they are as greatly concerned. And were not their hands tyed up, might be as useful as any whatever. A hard Case indeed it is indeed, when Men cannot be entertained in the service of the Common Cause of their Country and Religion without the violation of their Consciences, by doing that which they are perswaded is not pleasing in the sight of God. I wish these Measures may not prove fatal in the end to the whole Protestant Interest, and produce too late Repentance, that it may not be said in this Case, as there has been too much Cause in some others, *Sero sapiunt Angli.*

The Circumstances of this present Conjunction having occasioned this small, though I believe not impertinent Digression, I shall return to the former Subject, and come to the total Frustration of this Subterranean Contrivance, hatched in the depth of Hell, under Covert of a Protestant League, to prepare for a War to extirpate Protestantism. When the Parliament being now fully convinced of the Design of Popery and Slavery, (which inevitably follow one the other, as the Thred the Needle) had done what the present Season would permit, for securing us against both, by getting the Declaration cancel'd, and procuring an Act for excluding Papists from all places of Trust and Preferment, they judg'd we were pretty safe from the Danger which before impended over us, and resolv'd to hold their hands from giving any more Money till our Religion and Liberties were fully secured, concluding it the best expedient to finish the War, as the event proved it; and therefore grew deaf to all the Instances of  
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the Court for further Supplies to carry on the War, that for want of Fuel the Fire might die of it self: Whereupon these Confederates in Iniquity having no hope that way to continue it, and not daring to depend upon French assistance, and being afraid to be called to account, in case they should reduce things to the utmost extremity, resolved to put an end to it, though the shame and regret in which they finished it, was as great as the Treachery in which they begun it. Thus we see how the Lord by a Series of Wonders counterwork'd all the deep Intrigues of this Grand Mystery of Iniquity (then which perhaps the Devil ne'r framed a greater) A Popish War contrived under the Disguise of a Protestant League; and delivered the *Dutch* and us also from the hands of our Popish Enemies again.

## S E C T. VI.

**T**Hese cursed Devices being brought to nought, and turned in such a wonderful manner against them, they despaired after the miscarriage of two such bloody and costly Wars with *Holland*, of carrying on their Design that way, the Devil furnisheth them with another Project out of hand, perhaps as great a Masterpiece as he had ever invented; I mean the Test, which, not long after, was brought into the House of Lords; and indeed the hand of God was as eminently seen as ever in the Deliverance of the Nation from that deadly Snare which the Enemies of our Religion and Liberty had contriv'd to catch us in. There was never a more deep and dangerous Pit dug for any People then this; That the Subjects should be obliged under penalties to Swear, that *It is not lawful upon any pretence whatsoever to take Arms against the King, and That they do abhor that traiterous Position, of taking Arms by his Authority against his Person, or against those that are Commissioned by him.* This was craftily and warily to be manag'd, and therefore gradually to be imposed, that

that so it might be the easier submitted unto; and those whose Consciences were tender herein, and so unmeet for serving their design, might be removed out of their way: And as for those whose Consciences could digest this Test, they doubted not, but as occasion required, they would fully answer their ends. Therefore in the second year after the Kings Return, while the heat of Zeal lasted, the Parliament was drawn in to make an Act, to impose it on the Magistrates and Officers of all Cities, Corporations, Boroughs, and Cinque-ports, to secure them for their purposes; although Charity engages me to believe, That the Parliament for the Major part in the Paroxysm of Loyalty they then laboured under, did not discern the Snake in the Grass, nor some time after. The next year after the Snare was extended to a larger circumference, so as to catch all benefic'd Ecclesiasticks, every Dean, Canon and Prebend of every Cathedral or Collegiate Church; all Masters, and other Heads, Fellows, Chaplains, and Tutors in any Colledge, Hall, or House of Learning, or Hospital; every publick Professor and Reader in either of the *Universities*, and in Every Colledge elsewhere; every Parson, Vicar, Curate, Lecturer, and every other Person in Holy Orders, not so much as a School-master keeping any publick or private School, nor a Tutor of Youth, or Children in a private Family, could escape the Snare, but must all be turned out of their Livelyhood, without the least provision made for them and their Families to keep them alive; and as for the poor School-masters and Tutors of Youth in private Families, the last Shift Men of liberal Education could be supposed to make for a little Bread; to cut them off from that, and expose them to utter perdition, their Case was made the severest of all: For if they were found guilty of teaching Youth before they had subscribed this Test, they were to suffer three Months Imprisonment without Bail or Main-prize for the first Offence; and for the second, and every other Offence, suffer three  
three



three Months Imprisonment, and be Fined Five pounds to the King. Two Thousand Ministers whose Consciences could not swallow this and other things imposed upon them, besides School-masters and Tutors a great number, honourably quit their Benefices and Employments, and commit themselves and Families to the Providence of God, who feeds the Sparrows, and clothes the Lillies: But the rest having subscribed, and all the Magistrates and Officers of Cities, Corporations, &c. together with all the publick Ministers, being got into the Snare, they conclude by their example and persuasion to duckoy the rest of the Nation into the same.

One thing only was an Obstacle in their way, so great a number of Nonconformist Ministers, who had refused to subscribe the Test; and being known to be Men of Holy Lives, and good understanding in the Scriptures, (unless great care were taken to prevent it) would enlighten the People in the evil, and danger thereof, and influence them by their example against it; and therefore they contrive another Act to add more Rigour to their Case, (too too rigorous already) to compel them to subscribe, or else keep them from conversing with the People as much as might be: I mean the Act of the 17<sup>th</sup>. Car. 2. whereby they were prohibited from coming within Ten Miles of any City, Town Corporate, or Borough that sends Burgesses to Parliament, (unless in Travel upon the Road) or any Parish or Place where they had Preached at a private Meeting, since the Act of Oblivion, under pain of forfeiting Forty Pounds. Nay, that was not thought enough, to banish them into the Villages, but they are forbid to teach any publick or private School, or take any Tablers or Boarders, whether they taught them themselves, or got any other to teach them, upon pain of Forty Pounds; (nay, the very Women forbid to take Scholars or Tablers, under the same Penalty) except they swore this Test, with this Additional Clause, *I will not at any time endeavour any alteration of Government in Church or State.* And now the Fur-

nace was heat seven times hotter then before; I mean the Fine for teaching School was raised just seven degrees higher, from Five Pounds to Forty; and to make full measure of Affliction to them, pressed and pressing down; the Justices of the Peace have Power over and above the fine for any Offence against this Act, to commit the Offendor to Prison without Bayl or Main-prize. You see how great Importance this Test was of, in order to the grand Design. However, these Men were enabled by God to assert the Liberty of the Gospel and their Native Country, by constant refusing to take this Test, under all the extremities they were reduced to, except a very small number, who, I think I may say, were trappaned into it: Nevertheless, though they could not bring them to submit to the Test, they kept them from distilling their poysonous Principles of Schism and Rebellion into the People, as it is worded, by discovering the dangerous nature of this Test unto them. And thus having closed the Mouths of *Nonconformists*, they commit the Propagation of the Test-Doctrine to those who had subscribed it, not doubting but the Leaven put into the Magistrates and Ministers would in time be diffused over the whole Lump, so that they might get the Parliament it self to take it, and impose it on all the People, which at last they waxed so confident as to attempt; and had they effected, the Protestant Religion and Professors thereof had easily been dispatched at their pleasure: For had they but a Commission from the King to destroy us under any pretence whatever, tho never so contrary to Law, Scripture and Reason, we had been bound by an Oath to make no resistance; yea, had they come to rob us of our Goods, burn our Houses, ravish our Wives, murder our Children as they did in the Irish Massacre, and a multitude of others; or shoot us to Death at our meeting for God's Worship, or torture us to Death with all the Cruelties Hell can invent, as they have done in this late Persecution in *France*, our Hands had been bound up by this

this Oath from defending our selves, or opposing them. But Oh ! the wonderful goodness of God, which hath been often extended to this Nation for its salvation, in greatest Extremity ! when the Knife was even at our Throats, he puts out his Almighty Hand and plucks it away. He opens the Eyes of the same Parliament, who had been drawn to impose this most destructive Test upon so many Persons Civil, Military, and Ecclesiastick already, under such severe Penalties, to discern the mischievous Design and Consequences thereof, and turns their Hearts contrary to it ; so that all the Artifice of the Devil and all his Instruments, could not induce them to comply with it themselves, or impose it on the Nation in general ; which was the thing principally aimed at from the beginning by the first Projectors thereof. And the Heroick Zeal which was shewn, the indefatigable Pains taken, and profound and impregnable Arguments used by those Noble Lords, who then expos'd their Lives to the utmost rage of their, and our potent Adversaries, to save the Life of their Country, did so awaken and enlighten the dark and drowsie part of the People with the sense of the mischief intended them thereby, that they thenceforth had an irreconcilable hatred against the Test and the Promoters of it, which had no small influence upon their ruin afterward. Thus you see how the Lord opened the Eyes of the blind, before it was too late, to see and shun the Snare layed for them ; and struck the Enemies of the Protestant Religion with blindness, so that they met with Darkness in the Day-time, and groped in the Noon as in the Night, and brought this crafty Contrivance of theirs to nought. But I fear few have so considered of the wonderful hand of God herein, as to make themselves understand it aright, and to give him the Glory due to his Name for this Deliverance, which ought to be had in remembrance by this Nation to all Generations, and may be reckon'd for one of the principal Epocks of *Englands* Salvation, for which, blessed, yea, ever-blessed be his Holy Name. And may the Memory of these

Worthies be had in everlasting Honour, whom God spirited at that day so gallantly to maintain the Gap against the Destruction coming in upon us.

## S E C T. VII.

**A**Nother memorable Deliverance the Lord wrought for this Nation, was the disappointing that Hellish Machination of setting it on Fire by Forty One Fire-balls, to which end they had employed abundance more Incendiaries then they had to fire the City: For the Pulpits and Presses were now made use of in an extraordinary manner to alarum the Nation, with fear of a Forty One Revolution at hand, that so they might be the better enabled to effect a Popish One, which they had so long laboured after, and so many ways attempted hitherto in vain; and to put out the Peoples Eyes, that they might not see the danger they lay under from Popery, they raise a dust in all places about the danger of Presbytery; violating the sacred Bond of Faith plighted in the Act of Indemnity fifteen years before; and endeavouring to destroy those, who had been so instrumental in the Kings restitution. But what should we mention Faith, not in the least regarded by them, either abroad or at home? The Gentlemen known formerly by the Name of *Cavaliers*, had been courted with high promises of Preferment to all Places Civil and Military, would they but joyn with them in breaking Faith, and revenging the *Forty One Quarrel* upon the *Presbyterians*; a Name common to all Dissenters at that time; and to all others who manifested themselves true Lovers of Virtue and Piety, and their Neighbours, who did not in all points conform to the Publick Worship.

But these Gentlemen, though many of them (who had better deserved of the Government) were in a destitute condition, to their everlasting Honour shewed so much Wisdom and Generosity, as to reject the offer with greatest indignation;

tion; but now afresh that wicked design is prosecuted of setting the Nation in flames, by mercenary knaves and credulous fools, for raising an intestine War; that Popery having the Government of its side might swallow up all at last. But by Gods great mercy to the Land this miscarried also.

And truly an extraordinary hand of God was seen herein, that when several who had been deeply concerned in the Transactions of Forty one, and prefer'd thereby; bewrayed their own nests, betrayed their Party and Religion, by serving a wicked Interest for filthy Lucre; these Gentlemen who had hazarded their Lives, on the contrary side, and lost their Estates to signalize their Loyalty, and were thereby reduced to a state of Exigency many of them; and might have raised their depressed fortunes again, by the ruin of their old enemies, should so Nobly refuse the offer. As for that sordid Apostate hireling, who, like *Balaam*, loving the wages of unrighteousness, debased himself to serve a Popish Design, and be made the principal Tool for effecting this transcendent piece of villany, I mean him, who wrote the Book called the *Countermine*, the Lord rewarded him according to his Deeds, by the hands of his Patrons who set him on work, by his own Confession on his Death-bed. For one that came to visit him, asking him what he judged to be the cause of his Sicknes and approaching Death? He answered, He had been privy to too great Secrets to live. The just and common recompence of Traitors, whom the Devil and his Instruments get into such Snares as I could give many instances, if occasion were.

S E C T. VIII.

**T**HE next remarkable providence in breaking the Snares laid for the Nation, by Popish Councils, was the making void two Bills which were calculated for the Meridian of Popery, though they bore most plausible Protestant Titles,  
One

One was an Act for the more effectual Conviction and Prosecution of Popish Recusants, *cujus contrarium verum est*. The other, an Act for securing the Protestant Religion by educating the Children of the Royal family, and providing for the continuance of a Protestant Clergy.

Four Noble Lords who had courageously asserted the Laws of the Land, and Liberty of the People, in affirming the Parliament to be legally Dissolved, by that unpresidented long Prorogation; by the prevailing part of their House had been sent to the Tower, there to continue during his Majesties and the Houses pleasure: And now these Pestilent Obstructors of all their mischievous contrivances, were removed out of their way, they think it a blessed opportunity put into their hands to do some signal service for the promoting their great Design, not doubting but the example of the imprisoned Lords, would deter the rest of that House from opposing that which they should offer, for fear of meeting with the like fate that befel those Lords above mentioned; and if they got them to pass the Lords House, they hoped it would find no great difficulty to pass the Commons, whom they supposed to be apprehensive enough of their own danger of annihilation, (if no more) at this critical season. Wherefore the Bills are confidently brought into the House of Lords; Nor did their confidence fail them there, for they passed with as great facility as could be desired. But when they came down to the House of Commons, there their conjectures failed; for the first of the Bills was thrown out with great contempt, and such a character of disgrace was set upon it, that tho the Authors thereof gnashed their teeth for malice, yet they never could bite out the mark, but it will remain to their perpetual reproach. For the censure the Commons gave upon it, and caused to be written in their Journal, was, *That they therefore rejected the Bill, because the Body of it was contrary to the Title. The voice was Jacobs*, but the hands which dressed it and serv'd it in to the Parliament were

*Esans.*



*Esau.* Nay, such a Spirit of Antipathy to Popery had the Lord put into the Commons, at that time, that they sented it in all the Court proposals as soon as made; and a Noble Champion of the Protestant cause, stood up in the House, and desired before the Bill were put to the question, that a little time might be given, to see whether any one would be so Audacious as to speak a word for it; who together with his Heroick Colleague, who before Moved that it might be thrown out, with a particular Mark of Infamy; as also a third who first began the attack, deserve, whether living or dead, to have Statues erected, for their valiant Defending the Protestant Religion, better then some, who under the Profession of it, made it their business to betray it. As for the other Bill, though it was not so manifestly adæquated to the service of Popery as the former, yet after it had been Read once or twice, and referred to a Committee, was never thought worthy their Consideration; and being slighted by Parliament and Committee both, died of a Disease called *Neglect*; and the Design of undermining the Protestant Religion by these projects, when all others failed, was again obstructed.

SECT. IX.

THE Lord having disappointed all their former Devices, they resolve to try another expedient, and see whether their design under a new disguise might not be better received; 'twas therefore concluded to make experiment what success it might find in Courts of Judicature, by a gradual Reformation of them till they were fully adapted to their purpose, by turning out such Judges as would not receive the Doctrin of Universal Obedience to Commands, and substituting others in their stead. Not that this project was unknown or unexperienced by them before, as is evident by the Lord Keeper *Bridgman*, who for setting the little Monosyllable *Law* in opposition to the mighty word *Prerogative*, received his

*Quietus.*

*Quietus est*; and after him the Lord Chancellor *Shaftsbury*, who for his zeal for the Protestant Religion met with the same fate. But now they were necessitated to lay a greater stress upon that project for the future then ever, that what could not be brought about by War, Fire, Leagues, Tests, nor Bills in Parliament, might be done by these Oracles of Law. They had already a Man of the North in one of the chief places of Justice, who was well read in the foresaid Doctrin; but their occasions required as many as could possibly be got; and amongst others, fit for their turn at that time, were two most select persons made Judges, who afterwards gave full proof of their fidelity to those who entrusted them, the one in the Case of Sir G. *Wakeman*, *Corker*, and *Marshall*; the other in the most deplorable Case of the never to be forgotten Alderman *Cornish*, and Mrs. *Elizabeth Gant*, and Mr. *Bateman* the Chirurgion, whose compassion to Doctor *Oats*, when he had been so unjustly and unmercifully whipt, precipitated his fatal end.

And though 'tis true, they reap'd no small advantages by this Devilish Machination, for many years after, and never gave over the method till they had got Eleven in Twelve to be their Vassals, yet they met with many disappointments therein before that, and were forced to turn out their old Instruments so often, and put in new ones, that it made them exceeding ridiculous and odious to the Nation; and could never get any lasting Tools, but all they had were quickly blunted, one bogling at this Drudgery, and another at that, till those two Monsters in Nature and Law, *Jeffries* and *Jenster*, were found out, who neither fearing God nor regarding Man, bogled at no command whatever. And the Lord carried their Council headlong in this profound piece of Treachery also; for as the meanness and contemptibleness of the Instruments before their advancement, exposed them to great disdain, and their Masters to as much hatred; so the injustice and cruelty of their actions was a great cause of the

ruin

ruin of both. As that notorious violation of the Priviledge of Parliament, in setting at liberty the Lords imprisoned by them. The Barbarous and numerous Murders in the West; the insulting over the Nobility and Gentry of the Land by such abject creatures; the impudent Audacity and Tyranny shewed in the Ecclesiastical Commission, and many other things.

But two things in a most especial manner I shall take notice of, wherein the hand of God was very visible, in turning this Device upon their own heads. The one is the mischief they received by those very Instruments, who when they had served them as long as they could, were at last turned out of Service, who bearing their ungrateful usage in mind, afterwards appeared in the behalf of the Bishops, illegally imprisoned in the Tower, and pleaded against Prerogative with that Reason and Courage, that the Bishops were acquitted at the Kings own Bench, which gave Prerogative and Popery its deadly wound, for it never recoverd after. The other is, that when this design had so far got the Ascendant that it was in its *Zenith*, Eleven Judges against One, asserting the Kings Dispencing Power, the very *Acme* of the Project, they now conclude all is their own, and dream of nothing but *Te Deum*, and triumphs; this lofty super-structure of so many years building is demolisht in a little time: for the Nation seeing their Case desperate, their Lives, Liberties, and Properties, given up to the Kings Arbitrary Power, under the pretext of Law, grew now so enraged that it never left undermining it till this Great Tower of *Babel* was laid in the dust.

#### SECT. X.

ONE might think the many disappointments our Enemies met with from the overruling Power of God, should have discouraged them from projecting further mischief.

chief against the Protestant Religion, and their Native Country; but it being as natural to them as to their Father the Devil, neither he or they can ever grow weary or cease from such Work. Another deep project they have which the Lord frustrated in the end also.

They had before Plotted a War against *Holland* under the pretence of a League of Peace, thereby to destroy the Protestant Interest by surprize; now they shuffle the Cards again and play a different game, for promoting the same design. They carry on a secret League of Amity with *France* under the pretence of a War; and herein also our great and wonder-working God appeared on our behalf, counterworking all their deep Intreagues and bringing their Devices to nought. The House of Commons being so abundantly satisfied of the Design to establish Popery and Slavery, and apprehensive of our great danger from *France* in both respects, make head against *France* now more then ever, *March 6. 1676.* and by divers importunate Addresses, one immediately succeeding another, represent to the King, the dangers we lay under from thence, beseeching him in the name of the People whom they represent, to enter into such Alliances as may secure us from the danger of the French King. To which the King declared his willingness, but before he could make preparation for it, he must be supplied by them with money to prevent those dangers. Whereupon the Commons for his present supply, provide him a security for taking up Two hundred thousand pound, promising when ever he should be pleased to call them again, the Alliances being fixed, they would assist with whatever Sum was needful for maintaining them. But the King not satisfied therewith, demands Six hundred thousand pound more, without which he acquainted them he could not speak or do those things which might answer the end of their several Addresses. They Replied, That they could not do it at present, many of their Members being absent, and therefore desire a little recess till the rest

of their Members were come out of the Country; which being granted, at their return the King puts them in mind of his last Message, and to hasten the supplies he desired, which finding the House remiss in, he seconded his Message with a Speech to the same purpose, not mentioning any Alliance made, as the House had desired and expected; whereupon trusting no longer to general promises they make a particular Address to him to make a speedy League Offensive and Defensive with the States of the United Provinces, &c. until which were done they could not give Supplies; and add the reasons of it. At which Address his Majesty is highly displeased, and in a Speech which he made in reply thereto, charges them with a dangerous and unparalleld invasion of his Prerogative, and the Fundamental Power of making Peace and War, in telling him what sorts of Leagues he must make, and with whom; and assures them that no condition shall make him depart from, or lessen so essential a part of the Monarchy, Adjourning them immediately to *July 16th.* And this severe Speech was Publisht in the next Gazette, to render them contemptible to the Nation. When the Sixteenth of *July* came they were Adjourned by Message till the Third of *December*, and thence to the Fifteenth of *January* 1677. and though divers worthy Patriots of their Country would have spoken in matters of importance, every of these Three Adjournments, yet the Speaker would not permit them, but abruptly Adjourned them, without putting it to the question. In the mean time there was a continued intercourse (though private) between the French Court and English; and ours assured the French, that whatever shew there might be of a breach between the Two Crowns, no such thing was intended, but a constant and inviolable Amity should be maintained on their part. However when the Parliament sat again at the time prefixed, To induce them to give money, which they had so peremptorily refused, to do, till such Alliances as they desired were settled; 'twas given out at

## 44 *The Sacred History of God's last*

Court, that the Alliance with *Holland* was as good as made, and War with *France* would suddenly ensue. Nay, the Courtiers speak reproachfully of the French King, and a Book is written, by the Court, to shew his Juggling tricks and the necessity of a War upon him, and publick Ministers of State offer to lay Wagers of a War with *France*; and the then Prince of *Orange*, a Protestant Prince, is sent for over, and a Match made between him and the Dukes Daughter, the Lady *Mary*; and all this to cover the Popish Design, and to get a powerful Army to effect it, and mony to maintain them. The Parliament being met the King makes a Speech to them, wherein he reproves them for distrusting his good intentions, and to let them know his sincere and intense zeal for the Protestant Religion, acquaints them he had Married the Lady *Mary* to the Prince of *Orange*, a Protestant, and engaged in Arms, in Defence of the Common Cause of *Christendom*; that he had made some Alliances already, but mentions none, and was willing to enter into more if they would enable him to support them; that nothing should hinder what they desired, except their own fault. The House in Answer to the Kings Speech, return him an Address of thanks for the care he had expressed for the Protestant Religion, in the foresaid Match, and beseech him not to accept of any Peace with *France*, unless upon the terms of the *Pyrenean Treaty*, and to provide in the Articles of Treaty with the Confederates, that none of them lay down Arms till he be reduced to the same state that Treaty put him in; to Prohibit, under pain of being destroyed, importation of all French Commodities into *England*, to engage all Confederated in the War with him, to have no Commerce with *France* during the War, and to assist in seizing all Ships and Men that shall enter into, or come out of any Port of *France*, of whatever Nation they be; promising to persevere in their prosecution of the War, and as soon as his Majesty should communicate such Alliances to them, to assist and support him



him in carrying them on. This Address was very unpleasing, and accordingly they received a Message of great Reprehension, with renewed Promises of keeping his Word, and doing all he could to satisfy them. Whereupon, notwithstanding all their Jealousies and Dissatisfaction, they are at last brought so far to comply with the Kings desires, as to Vote him a Pole Bill. But for the better security of the Nation, joyn it to a Bill for prohibiting French Commodities, entitling and limiting it to the sole use of the War; which tho it went full sore against the Grain, by reason of the hard circumstances of the Bill, yet for necessity was accepted. And there were also some Proposals in the House of raising more Mony upon the New Buildings about *London*. And now Messages are dispatched in an extraordinary manner, to acquaint the Cardinals and other Friends at *Rome* and *France* with this joyful Tidings, *That they had overcome the Parliament, and brought them to give Mony for the Sham-War, and to raise an Army to carry it on*; which they raised with all possible Diligence, and Headed them with (very nigh all) Popish Officers; an Hundred Commissions were given out by *S. W.* to Irish Papists, and all Offices by Land and Sea of his *R. H.* Disposal, and filled with Persons exactly qualified for the turn; nay, scarce a Bishop, Judge or Justice, or any Officer, but of his Promotion.

And the Design in *Scotland* advanced faster then here; for there the Duke of *Lauderdale* had by illegal cruel Bonds, (imposed on the People) and other Devillish Stratagems, of which he was full, endeavoured all he could to exasperate them to an Insurrection, that he might have the better colour to destroy them; and not daring to trust the Militia, they resolved to raise a standing Force, which they might trust to.

And after they had ruined many thousand Families of Innocent People by the curs'd Bonds above-mentioned, the Council by his Instigation cause severall of the Richest Counties

ties of the Land to be disarmed, and then send down the Highlanders by Regiments, (a barbarous sort of Papists) to live upon them at discretion, and commit all manner of Ravages and Barbarities upon them, according to what *Lauderdale* had been heard to threaten, That he would destroy them like Pole-cats and other Vermin. The French War, for all this, was by the Court made the great Subject of Discourse over City and Country, to lull us asleep, and an Army fit for the Popish Design on foot, as well in *England* as *Scotland* and *Ireland*, sure to their Interest, they were ripe for Action; only the Parliament having discoursed of further Supplies, the execution of the Design was deferred in order to the getting more Mony before it broke forth, and in the mean time to sham the Confederates into a Peace with *France*, that so they might have some colour of an Apology for cheating the Nation of so much Mony under pretence of a French War, when as they never intended any such thing, but were all this while in perfect Amity with that King.

First Providential  
clear Discovery of  
the Cheat to the  
Parliament, and its  
effects.

But now they had brought their Design just as it were to the Birth, the Lord denies them Power to bring forth in the midst of their full Career; he that puts Bounds to the raging Sea, and says, *Hitherto shall thy proud Waves go, and no further*, took off their Chariot-Wheels, and stopt their course, bringing all their Clandestine Councils into the open-Light, and turning the Heart of the Parliament against them, and taking them in their own crafty Devices; at the very time when the Secretary and all the rest of the Dark-Lan-thorn-men were crying out, *A War with France*, and assuring the House of the Reality of the thing, and that they knew the certainty of it; up starts a Member of the House, Mr. *Garraway*, who by the good hapd of Providence had obtained a Copy of the private Treaty between *France* and us, and tells the House, He knew it was a designed Cheat, for he could produce the very Articles of the secret Treaty of Peace be-  
tween

## *Twenty nine Years Wonder in England.* 47

tween us ; which struck the House with so great Consternation, and the Privy-Councillors in that horrid Mystery of Iniquity with such confusion, that they could not lift up their Faces, and the Stream was turned quite backward on a sudden. The House of Commons forthwith upon this plain discovery of the Cheat, address'd to the King, That for satisfying the Minds of his good Subjects, much disquieted with the apprehensions of danger from *France*, and encouragement of the Confederates, he would immediately Declare, Proclaim, and enter into an Actual War against the French King, and call back his Embassadors from *Nimignen* and *France*, and dismiss the French Embassador hence. And now all Men of Sense and Honesty plainly saw the Villany of the Design, which had long been covered over with so much Artifice and Impudence. For this Address the Pensioners were chastised with sore Rebukes and Menaces from the Court, and told of their Incivility to the King, in imposing such hard Terms upon him ; and that since they had left him, he would leave them, and call a New Parliament, which should not be so expensive to him as they had been by reason of their Pensions. Notwithstanding all which they grew more resolute then before, and instead of proceeding to the raising Mony from the New Buildings for a farther Supply, which before they had designed, they complain of the imbezelmēt of so great a Treasure as had been given within a few years, and begun to tax the Ministers of State, and consider what those Treaties were they had been so often told were concluded with *Holland*, but might not see, and by diligent enquiry discovered that there were secret correspondences for raising Mony, (in case they should balk it) with the French King and the Pope ; Cardinal *Norfolk* also was engaged to raise Mony from the Church, sufficient to supply all their Wants till the Work was done ; and that there were secret Messages sent to *Rome* and *France* to carry on these Affairs, and none had in so great esteem as French and Popish Coun-

# 48      *The Sacred History of God's last*

Councillors, and therefore concluded that whatever was pretended, no War was intended. And though the King by another Speech, told them what vast Charges he had been at in Preparations for the War by Sea and Land, and what pains he had taken in making Alliances in pursuance of their Addresses; and that what they had already given was of little value, without greater Supplies, pressing them to make Provision for him suitable to the vast Charges of so great an Undertaking; yet they took little notice of it, but fell to Considerations of a contrary nature, complaining, That the Great Officers were such as could not be trusted; French-men were taken into the most intimate Councils; None but Papists, or Popishly affected, taken into Places of Trust; the Evil Councillors, against whom they had Addressed to the King to be removed, as the Causes of all our Mischiefs, still continued; That it was of absolute necessity for them to inspect the Stores and Provisions, and to see the Alliances they had been acquainted with, whether they were such as agreed with their Votes and Addresses, or not; and accordingly Application being made to the King, That all such Alliances as his Majesty had made, might be communicated to the House, now at last all the Leagues and Treaties were sent to them, except the Secret League with *France*, which they principally desired to see. Whereupon they make fresh Application to him, to see the Articles of that League, but could not obtain their desire, but received in Answer a Mes-

Second Discovery, and its effects.

sage by the Secretary, That the Proposals made to *France* were *verbatim* the same contained in the Treaties already delivered in, being both Offensive and Defensive, and that the French Kings Answer was Verbal, *That he did not think reasonable to accept them.* Whereupon the House were more then ever dissatisfied, That whereas the Secretaries had told them, *That never was any Treaty on foot for Peace with the French King since their Addresses;* the King himself now acknowledged the contrary; and yet they were denied

denied the sight of the Articles; so that they proceeded to examine the Articles of the League with *Holland*, and found them no way corresponding with, nor answering the ends of their Addresses for an actual War against *Flanders*, and passed this Vote, *May 4. 1678. That the League Offensive and Defensive with the States of the United Provinces, with the Articles relating thereto, are not pursuant to the Addresses of this House, nor consistent with the Good and Safety of the Kingdom.* I have Transcribed this Vote *verbatim*, because it is so remarkable. And the same day they resolved to desire his Majesty forthwith to enter into present Confederacy with the Emperor, King of *Spain*, and the States General, for vigorous carrying on the War against the French King, and for the Good and Safety of his Kingdoms; and that all Parties agree to prohibit all Commerce with *France*, and no Peace or Truce to be concluded without consent of the Whole, and all other States and Princes to be invited into the Confederation: And for expedition, 'twas ordered to be presented to the King, without being drawn into form, according to the usual manner.

Third Discovery, and its effects.

All the while these earnest Sollicitations were used by the Parliament for an actual War with *France*, and Money given by them for that end, as the Title of the Poll-Bill expressly mentions, *France* was underhand continually supplied from hence with Men, and vast Supplies of Ammunitions, several thousands of Barrels of Powder and other Warlike Provisions were Shipt for *France*, under colour of the Isle of *Wight*, and other Places belonging to our Dominions, which was all discovered to the Parliament, and helpt to intend their Abomination of the Cheat put upon them, and produced an Hot Address, wherein they complain, That the King, by refusing their Advice, and hearkning to evil Council, had brought the Nation into a deplorable condition.

Fourth Discovery, and its effects.

H

And

And now the *Hollanders*, *Spaniards*, and other Confederates engaged in the War against the French King, being wearied out with the vain expectations of the King of *England*'s Assistance in the War, and seeing plainly he never was real in all the shew he made of it; and that the Parliament, though they had given Supply for that end, and were ready to give what more was needful, if they could have been sure of its right employment, neither had nor could afford them any help, all they gave being turned to other uses, despairing of any Succour from *England*, incline to accept of the Proposals of Peace made by the King of *France*; and were something swifter in conclusion of the League then we expected.

A Truce being now made, all Men knew 'twould end in Peace; but although the pretended War with *France* is now over, yet the Pretence for Mony never ceases; and 'tis proposed to keep up Army and Navy for some time, to see all things well settled, and the Articles of Peace, as many as concerned the present Security of Christendom, performed: Therefore the Parliament are by a Message put in mind to supply the King with Mony for that end. But the House being deeply sensible of the great Advantages that Popery had got by the Army raised, and the Mony given under colour of the War with *France*; and fearing both would be employed for the ruin of themselves and their Country, betake themselves with all their Might to oppose Popery and Arbitrary Government, and secure themselves from their implacable Enemies at home: And in order therunto, had provided several Bills, and passed a Vote to give no Mony till that were done. Upon which they were prorogued. The Miscarriages of Affairs is, at their next meeting, by a Speech of the Kings, and another of the Chancellors, laid to their Charge; and they were blamed for churlish Jealousies of Popery and Arbitrary Government, and told, 'Twas like the Proceedings in *Forty One*, and warned to look back



to the end of that Scene : That no fears of Arbitrary Government, nor Zeal for Religion, could sanctifie their Proceedings; and that they might be cajoled to keep up the Army, were minded of two things, especially conducing thereto; That they had provoked the Mighty Monarch of *France* by their Preparations for War against him, and Prohibitions of Trade with him, and had cause to fear the effects of it : That there was no danger of the Army raised, for not a little Finger of a Papist could get into any Place of Trust; when at the same time there were at least an Hundred Irish Papists had Commissions from the Secretary; they were also warned not to attempt any more that unsufferable practice of tacking Bills for the publick Good of the Nation to those of Supplies for the Crown, as they had lately done in joyning the Bill for Prohibition of importing French Commodities to the Poll-Bill; for if they did, the King would not Sign them, it being an encroachment upon his Prerogative. Divers other wholsom Cautions and Instructions were given them, which I cannot have time so much as to intimate; but the end of all was, more Supplies to maintain Fleet and Army. The Commons instead of that, Vote an Address to his Majesty, to signifie their Resolutions, Unless his Majesty would enter into a present War with *France*, to disband the Army: To which the King, by Advice of his Antiparliamentary Councillors, returns Answer, *That all things were better ascertain'd, he doth not judge it Prudence to dismis Fleet or Army, and therefore desires a further Supply for their Subsistence till that time.* The Parliament understanding that by vertue of the Secret League with *France*, there were Supplies both of Men and Mony expected for speedy executing the Design here, and dreading the Popish Army at Home, Vote a Sum of 200000 *l.* for disbanding them as soon as 'twas possible to raise the Mony, giving no longer time then *August*, 1678. for the performance of it, though much importuned by those who knew the use they were first

raised for. But though they could not keep them up by consent of Parliament, yet 'twas resolved to do it without. The Parliament being now Adjourned, the Peace concluded, and the French King at leisure to assist them, and some Mony to begin the Work with, and Promises both from *France* and *Italy* of sufficient Supplies to carry it on, if it were once begun; his *R.H.* and the Generality of the Confederates were for striking now, while things were in so happy a conjuncture for effecting the Design so long in hand. And indeed never had they so fair an opportunity as then, had they taken it. But though this were good Council, according to the Rules of Worldly Wisdom and Hellish Policy, yet it was rejected; for some of the Cabal, who pretended greater Foresight than the rest, gave Council to defer the Execution of the Design a little longer, and stay till the Parliament met again, and make one Experiment more, whether they could wheedle them out of more Mony before they begin; and this latter, (though bad Council) was followed, by the wonderful Power, Wisdom and Mercy of God, who hath at all times watched over the Protestant Interest in this Nation ever since the first Profession of it; of which we have cause to say, as the Scripture says concerning the pernicious Council *Achitophel* gave against *David*, which, though effectual for the end aimed at, was slighted; for the Lord had appointed to defeat the good Council of *Achitophel*, 2 *Sam.* 17. 14. to the intent that the Lord might bring Evil upon *Ab-salom*. The reason why the former good Council for our Destruction was neglected, was, Because the Lord had appointed to defeat it, that he might preserve us, and bring Destruction upon those who had confederated for our ruin, by disappointing their Devices, and taking them in their own Craftiness: For whereas they waited for further Aid from the Parliament, which was not to come till the 21<sup>st</sup> of *October*, 1678. before that time a Providence fell out which broke all their measures to pieces.

Now.

SECT. XL.

**N**OW a greater and fuller Discovery of their Satanical Design is brought to light by Dr. Oats, one of their own Instruments, who had been entrusted with the most part of their Intrigues; by which means the Nation was so Alarum'd that they durst not adventure upon the enterprize till things were again composed, which they doubted not to effect by baffling the Discovery, so as to secure all their complices from Justice; but come short of their expectations, being forced to give way to the Tide, which at that time was too strong for them, and to give up about Twenty of their Fellow Conspirators, and most of them Men of great Note among them, into the hands of Justice, as Sacrifices to appease the Nations Wrath.

The Lord by this grand Discovery of the Design for Subversion of the Protestant Religion and establishing Popery in the Land, having put such an obstacle in the way of those who were the managers of it, that put them by their intended Method. I shall only mention four Particulars relating thereto, wherein his hand may plainly be seen in infatuating their Councils.

The first was the Spirit of Confusion God sent amongst them, whereby their Councils were divided. Those who were the greatest Masters of Policy among them, were for managing affairs according to the rules of Prudence, and not venturing upon any desperate and uncertain attempts which might prove fatal to the whole Design, but for putting it in execution by joint and safe Councils not capable of Defeat.

Another party whose zeal out-run their Prudence and Patience, were for expedition of the Work by all possible means, by which they precipitated it; for finding the King of a more Considerate and wary Temper than his Brother, and not willing to follow such hasty measures as he, they con-

contrived with the first opportunity to remove him out of the World and this proved the occasion of Discovering the whole.

Another thing wherein God infatuated them, was, that when their Plot was Discovered, and they concluded *Oats* to be the Discoverer, they should reproach him, beat him, and threaten to send him beyond the Seas, and give him notice to prepare himself to go for *St. Omers* in *Flanders*, where he well knew he should be tortured to make him confess; and yet after all this, let him go at liberty, to make out his Information, cause them to be seized, and give in Evidence against them to their Destruction. Of which Sottish stupidity and madness of theirs, no other reason can be given then Divine occacation; according to that observation of the very Heathens themselves, *Quem perdere vult Jupiter prius dementat*; whom God intends to destroy he first infatuates: Or as it is phrased by that holy Man, *Job 5. 14. They meet with darknes in the day time; and grope in the noon day, as in the night.* The Jesuits are sufficiently known to the World to be Men well acquainted with the Theory and Practic of Politics; yet I think never Men under their Circumstances acted more unpolitickly then they did in this particular.

In like manner *Coleman*, the Dukes Secretary, a great Person in this Confederacy, and one of the principal Contrivers and Managers thereof; when he heard from *Sir Edmund-berry Godfrey* that it was Discovered, acted like a Man under Divine Infatuation: For he was seized with such a Spirit of fool-hardiness that he thought himself out of all possibility of falling by the hand of Justice, and confidently owned the Plot, and confessed himself a Conspirator in the Design of *Bringing Popery into the Land*; and though he had time enough, yet neglected the securing his Letters, which discovered his guilt, and were owned by him, and after made use of as Evidence for his own Condemnation, and a full and undeniable confirmation of the Plot: As his Letter to *Le*

*Cheese,*

*Chuse*, Printed by order of Parliamēt, makes manifest as the light at noon-day. And in all probability had *Coleman* not been deprived of the common Prudence of mankind, to remove dangerous Papers, though of far less consequence, then his out of the way, *Outs* his Discovery of the Plot in general, and accusation of him in particular, had been slighted; and the strongest Argument that is, and hath been made use of to silence all gain-sayers, of the reality of the Popish Plot, had been wanting.

Another thing remarkable, was the extraordinary assistance given from above to Dr. *Outs* at his Examination before the Council, where though there were not wanting those who used all manner of Artifice to baffle his Evidence, some by endeavouring to dash him out of Countenance, others by watching to entrap and ensnare him in his Words, taking minutes of what he spoke to that end, yet the Lord endued him with such a Spirit of Caution, and with such invincible Courage, that he stood against all his Adversaries, as an iron Wall, and they were not able to prevail against him, because the Lord was with him, to support him, and to confound those wise Politicians that were Enemies to his Discovery; so that upon his Information *Coleman* and several Priests were seized by order of Council.

## SECT. XII.

**T**HE next thing wherein the wonderful hand of God was seen for disappointing their Contrivance, was the death of Sir *Edmund Berry Godfrey*; for there being no other Witnesses to the Plot but that of *Outs* and *Godfrey*, to whom *Coleman* had confessed it, out of vain confidence of Powerful Protection from his great Friends and Patrons, and the impossibility of their Designs meeting with such a Malevolent fate as was then impending over it, they concluded if *Godfrey* could be sent into the other World, there being but one Witness



Witness left, they should be able to baffle the Plot; and weather the Point well enough. Accordingly they contrived how to catch him in their snare, and as he was passing by *Sommerfet-House*, he being a Justice of Peace, was desired to go in and put an end to a fray between Men that were fighting; to which treacherous Motion he consenting, was presently seized by a Company of Russians, strangled, and for some days concealed behind the holy Altar, not only to hide but sanctifie the horrid Murther; and some of the Actors in this bloody Tragedy, danced for joy about the dead Corps and spit in his Face. A noble Triumph it was, and worthy of the Sons of that Scarlet Whore, who delights to make her self Drunk with the blood of the Saints, and Martyrs of Jesus. He being missing from *Saturday* to *Thursday*, and no tydings of him, the Councel take cognizance of the case, and ordered a Proclamation to be issued out for discovering of him, which when the Confederates, and Accessaries to the Murder perceived, they were struck with a pannick fear, and lay all their heads together to conceal their Villany, and had many projects which they judged would prove effectual for that end.

The first was to put a stop to the Proclamation, till they had removed the dead body out of *Sommerfet-House*, by night, to a place called *Green-Berry-Hill*, the name of the Place containing the names of the Three Persons who after were found guilty of the Fact, and Executed for it; a very strange thing. *Green*, *Berry*, and *Hill*, suffered for the Murder. And therefore Information was given to the Councel of a pretended Discovery of him, that he was Married to the Widow *Ossly*, and found in bed with her, which put by the Proclamation till next Councel day, and in the mean time he was removed to the place aforesaid, Three or Four Miles distant from *Sommerfet-House*, that there might be no suspicion of that Sacred Place and lay him there in a ditch, with his Sword thrust through him; that when he should be found,



it might be concluded he had been his own Executioner.

This being accomplished with good success, the next project was to give out that he was a melancholy Person, and in a fit of Distraction, a distemper frequent in the Family, had made himself away. Which rumor when it gained reputation among many Persons of an easie Faith, and had put forth the utmost of its efficacy about the City and parts adjacent, another invention is thought of; To wheedle his Brother *Godfrey* into the same belief, or at least into an acquiescence therein, for lucre of his Estate; and therefore he is treated kindly by one who pretended to have been a great Friend of Sir *Edmund*, and to condole with him in his Death; and for the esteem he had for his Brother would use all his interest, which was at that time very great, to save his Estate, which he would beg for him and his Relations; and he being a Melancholy Man would work means to get the Coroner to bring him in Distracted. But the Brother fathoming the bottom of all this pretended kindness, scorned so unhumane and unchristian an action, as to sell the Blood of his dear Brother for mony. Another method is contrived, and that is, By Clandestine tampering with the Coroner and Jury to gain them over to bring in a Verdict *Felo de se*, and if this could have been effected, The great Enemy and Witness of their Roguery had been removed, the Infamy of so flagitious an Act washed away from their Party and Religion, and little doubt but that the Discovery of the whole Plot might be made insignificant.

But notwithstanding all these crafty devices for concealing the Murder, and stifling the Plot, the Lord frustrated their Counsels and carried them headlong.

The Relations would by no means be cajoled into silence, the Coroner and Jury could not be tempted to give in a false Verdict: His Neck was found to be Broke, and divers other concurrent Signs, which for brevity sake I omit, of a cruel Murder committed upon him by others hands appear-

ing, the Jury brought it in *A Barbarous Murder*. And though for the present the Authors and Circumstances thereof lay undetected, yet stifling the Man was so far from stifling the Plot, that by this action the Nation was much more confirmed in the belief of it then before, and the Murder generally imputed to the Papists; nay, the People were every where so Incensed and Alarmed by this Murder, that there was no suppressing the noise, nor inquiry into the bottom of it till it was fully discovered, as I shall shew hereafter. And this cursed project for smothering the Plot, and all the rest subservient to it, had a quite contrary effect to what they intended.

## S E C T. XIII.

**A**Nother great Dementation which the Lord struck these Conspirators against our Religion and Liberties with, was in letting the Parliament come together before they had baffled the Plot. For the Parliament in stead of minding the main business for which they were Convened, the giving mony for maintaining the Army and Navy, and taking off the Anticipation upon the Revenue, Lectures which had been often read to them, but slighted; presently after their Convening, fall close to the consideration of the Plot, and order Dr. Oats and Mr. Coleman to be examined, and his Letters to be inspected and Printed, for information of the People, and enquire into the Murder of Sir Edmund-B. Godfrey, causing divers to be secured upon suspicion thereof; and upon the Evidence they had were so fully satisfied of the Plot, that both Lords and Commons concur in Voting, That *there had been, and still was, a Damnable and Hellish Plot carried on by the Popish Recusants, for the rooting out and destroying the Protestant Religion. The Vote, The removing Papists ten miles from London; And a Bill for raising the Militia fourteen days for securing the Nation,* passed both Houses. But though in  
such

such a critical time of danger as the Nation scarce ever knew greater, this Bill was refused by the King, whereby it was known what Councils influenced him. They sent the Secretary to the Tower, for granting Commissions to several Popish Officers, since the discovery of the Popish Plot, during that present Session of Parliament, and granting Dispensations to those that were already in Places of Command; but the King presently Released him: they Impeached divers Popish Lords, which were sent to the Tower, and discovered a correspondence held with *France*, for supplies of money to carry on the Design of Popery and Arbitrary Government; and to make short, both Houses accorded so well in all things relating to the full Discovery and vigorous prosecution of the Plot, that fresh Evidence began to come in apace, and *Bedloe*, who was privy to the Murder of *Sir Edmond-B. Godfrey*, had made a full Discovery of it, with all the circumstances, to the general satisfaction of the Nation as well as Parliament, and all things bore so hard upon the Plotters, and money for no other use but Disbanding the Army (for which a Bill was passed) being to be had, they were under a necessity of getting the Parliament Prorogued, whatever the event were, which was accordingly done, to the great Amazement and Terror of the Nation, in the midst of the Prosecution of this Popish Damnable Plot.

#### SECT. XIV.

THE end of this surprizing Prorogations were, besides the stopping any further Discoveries, and Prosecutions, to which the Parliament while Sitting intended all their might, and with very good success, to the great advantage of the Protestant, and detriment of the Popish cause, were the practising upon the Pensionary Members of the House, whose necessities they knew to be a great Temptation, and try if by their means they could get the Parliament disposed to give

60 *The Sacred History of God's last*

mony at the appointed time of their meeting, and if it were possible to corrupt or destroy *Oaths*, or by hired Evidence, which they knew they could not miss of, to fix some notorious villainy upon him, which might disparage his Evidence, so as to render it invalid: And as the Lord had rendered all their former Devices ineffectual, so did he these also; for by reason of this detection of this horrid Plot for extirpation of the Protestant Religion; every one who had any true love thereto, seeing all endeavors used by the Great ones to suppress it, were made irreconcilable to them; and not only the Pensionary Parliament, but the very Pensioners of the Parliament could not be wrought up to betray their Country and Religion, by giving further supplies, which by too long and dear bought experience they knew had and would be employed for that use. For which reason, and for that they found them unmoveable in their Resolutions to prosecute the Plot to the utmost, they were forced to Dissolve this long and dearly beloved Parliament, which was as grievous as tearing the skin from the flesh, French promises of money also failing in this great exigency.

Thus they proceeded from one degree of wickedness to another, till their own Pensioners abhorring their practices, refused to serve them any longer; upon which we may write, *This was the finger of God.* But notwithstanding all their former evil Practices, and destructive Acts against their Country, especially against Poor Dissenters from the Publick Worship which they had commanded, yet since they shewed so many tokens of repentance in their latter years, by their zeal against Popery and Arbitrary Government, which before they had so much countenanced, and by their willingness to have eased Protestant Recusants, if they might have been suffered, I shall not only forbear aggravating their miscarriages, but give them their due commendation, *Their latter end was better than their beginning*; and charity leads me to think, had they been continued to give full proof of their incli-

inclinations, would have done whatever lay in them to retrieve the Rights of the Nation, which they had unadvisedly given away.

As for the other Design upon *Oats*, that also by the good hand of God was frustrated; for he was so fully awakened with the sense of his Danger on every side, that they neither could ensnare him by his Words, nor warp him from his purpose in prosecuting his Discovery, nor find an opportunity to make him away, and were therefore put to the last shift, to hire Villains to perjure themselves by Swearing Buggery against him, in which Conspiracy *Knox* and one *Lane*, formerly *Oats's* Man, being engaged, the Providence of God brought their Roguery to light, and *Oats* by a diligent prosecution of his business, brought them to open and condign shame, to the great and everlasting Dishonour of those who set them on work.

S E C T. XV.

**A**Bout the same time they met with another shameful Disappointment in the Case of one Mr. *Claypole*, who was Son-in-law to *Oliver Cromwel*, and therefore the fittest Person they could find to fix a Sham-Plot of Killing the King upon, that in case any such thing had been effected by those Popish Conspirators, whom *Oats* charges therewith, they might have thrown the Odium thereof upon the whole Fanatick Party, and got a Sword to slay them; and therefore they had committed him close Prisoner to the *Tower* by a Warrant for a Treasonable Design to kill the King, which was as Hellish a piece of Treachery as any the rest of their Inventions. But *Claypole* being assured of his own Innocency, boldly repelled all the Attacks the Secretary and all others made upon him, and they got nothing but shame by him, in requital of their own Sham, and after some Months confinement, were fain to set him at Liberty, without the least Proof of what they had pretended against him: And in both these  
last

## 62 *The Sacred History of God's last*

last mentioned Cases we have fresh Instances of the Lords making good his Word, *Taking the Wife in their own Craftiness, and saving the Poor from the Sword, from their Mouth, and from the hand of the Mighty.*

### S E C T. XVI.

**T**H E Long Parliament of Seventeen years continuance being dissolved, by reason of the inextricable necessity God by his all-wise Providence had reduced them unto of doing so displeasing and unadvised a thing, they quickly began to repent of that Act, and could they have redeemed their Error at any rate, gladly would have done it. But alas! *Post est occasio calva*, 'twas too late. And now the 6th of March, 1678. the time appointed for the sitting of a New Parliament being so near, they were fain to work, all hands aloft, to get such a Parliament as might comport with those ends they proposed, which the Stubborn Pensioners had refused to answer, that is, To give Mony, and stifle the Popish Plot: But notwithstanding all the Arts imaginable were used to procure Elections according to their desires, by hiring Votes in Corporations, signifying the Persons his Majesty desired to be chosen, granting new and beneficial Charters, and causing them to be hung out of the Windows to influence the People to choose those whom the King would have elected; and over and above, the Project of false returns by Sheriffs, and threatening those who should choose Seditious persons, as the true Lovers of their Country were stilled, and no Stone left unturn'd, yet all proved lost Labour; for the Lord so over-ruled the Hearts of the Electors, that all these deceitful Tricks were rendred ineffectual, and a right English Protestant Parliament was chosen; who when they once came to sit, quickly turned out all those spurious Members, who got in by false Returns; and having purged their House, applied themselves to the faithful Service of their Country,



Country, Defence of true Religion, and zealous Prosecution of the Plot ; which, had they not been broken up after the former manner, they had effectually done. But however, though the time of their Sitting was but short, yet longer then intended by the Popish Confederates to be ; for they had projected to put an end to their Session as soon as begun, (knowing they were not qualified for their turn) under pretence of the Kings Prerogative to refuse the Speaker they should choose ; and if they firmly adhered to their choice, to dissolve them as Invaders of his Majesties just Power ; and though the King by their Councel did refuse him, and they made three addresses unto him, asserting their right to choose their Speaker in each of them ; yet seeing the Reason why this Bone of Contention was cast into the House, and considering the distressed condition of the Nation, which lay a bleeding, after they had asserted their right in the Case, gave way for that time to the Kings Will, and thereby disappointed their Enemies Design of breaking them up, before they should do any thing for the good of the Nation, or in prosecution of the Plot.

For they not only fell upon the Plot, but made such speedy Progress in the further Discovery of the Conspiracy, that they put many of the Court into a fear of their own Case, and found out by the Duke of *York's* Letters, such secret Intragues between him and the Pope and Cardinals, together with the whole Scheme of the Plot, that they conclude him to be the chief Cause of this Hellish Plot, and Vote, That a Bill be brought in to disable *James* Duke of *York* from inheriting the Imperial Crown of this Realm, which quite frustrated the project of sending him beyond Sea, where he was at the time when this Vote passed : For it was judged if he were gone out of the Land, it would put a stop to the further prosecution of the Plot, and make the Parliament secure from fear of any danger from him, since the King had commanded him to absent himself from him, that they might not have

room.

room for the least cause of pretence of his being influenced by Popish Councils, as the King in his Speech tells them; and as the Chancellor tells them, *Since the King of his own accord had deprived himself of the Conversation of his Royal and only Brother, by commanding him to depart the Kingdom, though with great sorrow, that they might be assured, he that could part with such a Brother for their sakes, would have no favourite but his People.* 'Twas thought also that would make them more tender in their Proceedings relating to him: All which the Lord turned about the quite contrary way.

And as this Parliament exerted so much Zeal against Popery, so likewise they did against Arbitrary Government, procuring two very good Acts for the benefit of the Subject. The one for disbanding the Army, with a Clause, *That no Person should be compelled to Quarter any Soldier whatever against their Will.* By which there was no keeping up their Army, unless they had Money to pay for their Quarters, and the People willing to receive them into their Houses. The other a Bill of *Habeas Corpus*, whereby the Government could not any longer detain Men in Prison at pleasure as formerly, both which Bills were such Spokes in their Chariot-wheels, that made them drive much heavier.

## S E C T. XVII.

**A** Nother Project which was contrived for baffling the Plot, during the Session of this Parliament, was disappointed also. One *Reading* a Councillor was employed to tempt *Bedloe* to recant his Evidence, seeing they could by no means work over *Oats* to a Compliance; but *Bedloe* stood as firm as a Rock against all Temptations, and the Lord enabled him to manage his business with that Prudence, that he caught this crafty knavish Lawyer in his own Snare; for he drew him on with hopes of prevailing so long, till he had got witness privily of his endeavours to corrupt him, and

waits

waits an opportunity till he saw him in the Lobby of the House of Commons, and gets him seized by their Order, that he might be sure not to be frustrated of his design, and discovers all to the House, who presently desire the King that he may be Tryed by a Special Commission, which being done, he was Convicted and set in the Pillory.

But finding by sad experience, that this Parliament was like in nothing to answer their ends, but every way dangerous, they resolved to rid their hands of them, first Proroguing, and afterward Dissolving them; and under the plausible pretence of the publick Good, which his Majesty judged would be most promoted by the frequent Calling of Parliaments; and therefore a new one was appointed to sit, *Octob. 21. 1680.*

S E C T. XVIII.

**A**ND now all the Confederates in the design of Popery and Arbitrary Government lay their Heads together how to get a better Parliament for their ends then the last, and conclude no means so effectnal, as to get such Members elected, as being in a necessitous Condition, may be easily induced to become Pensioners to the Court, and so obliged to Vote whatever they are commanded; and all endeavours were used, by whatever Stratagems they could invent, to get such mercenary persons chosen. But the Lord again disappointed their Councils, and so confirmed and united the Hearts of the People in the defence of their Religion and Liberties, that their choice was rather better in this then in the former, insomuch that the fear of this Parliament so surprized them, that they durst not let them sit when chosen, but were forced to Prorogue them by Proclamation before the time of their Session came. And this was the first disappointment they met with relating to this new Parliament.

## S E C T. XIX.

**T**HE next remarkable particular wherein the hand of God was seen in frustrating their Hellish Contrivances, was in the business of the Sham-Protestant Plot, commonly called the *Meal-tub Plot*.

There were now two Resolutions taken up by them; the one to baffle the Popish Plot in a way of publick Judicature, since all other ways had miscarried, by disparaging and discrediting the Witnesses before the Jury, that so they might not believe their Evidence; and therefore L. C. Justice *Scroggs* being prepared and instructed by Guinies, and secret Consultations with the Conspirators, how to begin this work of Retrogradation, acted it so well in the Trial of *Sir George Wakeman*, that the Witnesses, whose Evidence was owned by two Parliaments, and at former Trials, were all on a sudden grown Persons of no Credit; and *Sir George* and several Popish Priests tried at the same time were all acquitted, and this was the first turning of the Tide.

Yet though in this the Lord permitted them to prevail, in the other for turning the Popish into a Protestant Plot, which was at the same time carrying on, he frustrated their expectations.

This project was long before design'd, but they could not find a fit Instrument for an Undertaker a great while; at last by visiting all the Goals to seek a Person fit for the work, they found one in *Newgate*, every way Quadrate to their design, *Dangerfield* by Name, as egregious a Villain as perhaps *Newgate* had known, with Courage, Confidence, Wit and Conscience, suitable to the nature of the Work.

Such a precious Tool as this is brought to a certain very Great Man, who hugs him in his Arms, kisses him, and whets him on to the Work, takes care privately to supply him with Mony for managing the business he was entrusted with; which

## Twenty nine Years Wonders in England. 67<sup>9</sup>

which was to form and bring about a Presbyterian Plot, whereof a great many of the principal Peers and Gentlemen of the Land, eminent for their Zeal for the Protestant Religion, and the Liberties of *England*, were to be accused. *Dangerfield* being tutor'd by the Great Person, and several others who assisted by their Councils, brings the business to a head: A Scheme of the Plot, with a large Catalogue of Names annexed, the ways how they should be ensnared, and all other Circumstances described, and a Copy thereof is left with the great Man who had allowed him several Sums of Money out of the Pr. Pu.

And now without longer delay the project is to be put in execution. Treasonable Papers are secretly conveyed into the Chamber of one Colonel *Mansel*, a Retainer to the Earl of *Effex*, with a List of Names of the pretended Conspirators, by *Dangerfield*, who going with a Warrant, pretending to search for uncustomed Goods, left the Papers in a private place of the Chamber in *Mansel's* Absence, and hasts away to Secretary *Coventry*, who it seems was not privy to the Intreague, to get a Warrant to search *Mansel's* Chamber for Traiterous Papers, importing a dangerous Plot against the Government. But now the hand of the Lord is upon him, and all his Complices in this horrid piece of Treachery, to confound their projects, and take them in their own crafty Devices.

The Secretary unexpectedly to *Dangerfield*, Demands an Oath of him for satisfaction of the truth of what he had said; which Oath so startled the Conscience of this Wretch, who never knew what Conscience was before, that being suddenly surprized with it, he durst not adventure to take it; and this unforeseen circumstance spoiled the whole business. He that is Lord of the Heart, by a sudden touch of his Finger made his Adamantine Heart so tender in a moment, that it could not bear an Oath.

*Mansel* coming home, and having notice of the Treachery practis'd against him, gets to the Council before *Dangerfield*, and makes his Complaint to some of those who had been all along privy to the Intreague, but durst not own it. *Dangerfield* is sent for, and examin'd, found in Self-contradictions, and the Customer that was with him at the pretended Search, evidences several suspicious circumstances against him; whereupon he is sent to *Newgate*, from whence he was first fetch'd for his undertaking this piece of Villany. Had this Sham-plot taken effect, as was expected, the Parliament had been entertain'd with the discovery of a Presbyterian Plot, and all persons who opposed Popery and Arbitrary Government destroyed under a form of Justice, which was as great a Deliverance as any of those the Lord had wrought before for the Nation and whole Protestant Interest.

## S E C T. XX.

THE Disappointment they met with by the Discovery of this Plot, occasioned another of as bad consequence to them; for whereas they expected by this cursed Project to have been in a condition to let the Parliament Sit at the time appointed, and doubted not of getting Money for their pressing necessity by this Sham, they were forced to prorogue the Parliament again, and left in a destitute case.

## S E C T. XXI.

Which was presently followed by another as great as the former: For the French Ministers having promised that their Master would lend 200000 *l.* the Duke of *Buckingham* privately undermin'd them by secret Correspondence he had with the French King, and his Ministers, perswading him 'twould never turn to his advantage, (the sole end

of



of all his actions) upon which accompt he took other measures for the present, and withheld his hand from parting with money; which begot such an irreconcilable hatred between *Buckingham* and one greater then himself, who had been old and intimate acquaintance and companions from their childhood; that he narrowly escaped with his life the snare which his former dearly beloved Friend had caused to be laid for him.

SECT. XXII.

**T**HIS second amazing Prorogation of the Parliament, before they had been suffered to Sit, in such a time of extream danger the Nation lay under, both from the stifling the Popish Plot and forming a pretended Presbyterian one for the destruction of all the zealous Protestants who had vigorously opposed their designs, so awakned the Nation, that they resolved to Petition for the Sitting of the Parliament. Several Parts had already Petitioned, and the rest were ready to follow their example, although they heard how the Court frowned upon those that had already done it. The Country was not more Alarum'd with the Prorogation of the Parliament then the Court was with their Petitions; and fearing what might be the issue of this bold asserting of their rights, they judge it of absolute necessity to stop this Ominous inundation of Waters with all speed; wherefore they employ their Agents every where to deter the People from Petitioning for a Parliament, affirming that it was next degree to Rebellion; and get a Proclamation cunningly penned declaring it Seditious and Dangerous, and prohibiting it under pain of the Kings displeasure: and all Judges, Lieutenants, and Deputy Lieutenants, Justices and other Persons in Power, had order to use all means possible to put a stop to it; and too many of the Clergy served the Court in this base piece of drudgery (as unnatural as unchristian,) to Re-  
strain

strain the People from Petitioning for the Sitting of the Parliament whom they had chosen for the Conservators and Vindicators of their Rights; and this at such a juncture when the Knife was even at the throat of their Persons, Properties, and Religion also. But what Service so vile that Mercenary Clergy-men will decline when it pleases the King. However they were disappointed in this also, for Proclamation and all other additional methods, did not produce the desired effect; for many were so far from being daunted thereby, that their indignation rose higher then before, and in Defiance of that illegal Proclamation Petitioning went on. And when the Parliament could no longer be put off, immediately upon their Session, they called to account several Judges, Lieutenants and others, who had been the principal instruments in this piece of Villany, to violate the Laws of God, Nature, and the Land, in obstructing Petitioning the King; ordering several Judges to be Impeached for it, bringing others to shame.

And there being a sort of shameless Vassals who had so basely prostituted themselves to Arbitrary Power, as by fawning Addresses to the King to profess their Abhorrency of Petitioning for the Parliaments sitting, they brought these Abhorers upon their knees. So that this project for breaking the Peoples Spirits, and emasculating the Nation, by forbidding Petitions, was brought to nought, because God was with us.

#### SECT. XXIII.

**A**Nother piece of Treachery and Murther, which much resembles that of Sir. *E. B. Godfrey*, they had effected with much secrecy, and contrived to cover with as much subtilty, about this time was brought to light, by the Providence of God, and they were snared in the work of their own hands. A certain French Priest had signified, to some on this side the water, that he was willing to make a great Dis-

## Twenty nine Tears Wonders in England. 71

Discovery in the Popish Plot, which being known to some great Persons, one *Norris* was sent with a Warrant, and mony, as it were to bring him over; but when he came there, found that those here, to whom the Priest had imparted his desire of coming over, had betrayed both the Priest and him; and the Priest being Murdered at *Albeville*, he himself in his return for *England* very hardly escaped the Murderers hands. And when he came to *Dover*, was clapt up in Prison, by order of Sir *L. Jenkins* the Secretary, to prevent the Discovery of the Treachery acted against the Priest and himself also. And had not God brought them under an inevitable necessity of letting the Parliament Sit suddenly after, *Norris* had never been suffered to make this villany publick; but the Parliament coming to Sit contrary to their Desires and Expectations, when this Plot-stifling Murder was contrived, they presenty took cognisance of it, appointing a Committee to examine it, by which all the Roguery was Detected, and a fresh Demonstration given to the World of Sir *L's* love and fidelity to the Protestant Religion, as well as anothers who excited him thereto. So that though they were suffered by God to accomplish one part of their Design, the Murder of the Priest, yet they were restrained by him from Murdering the Messenger, and concealing their own Villany, which was the latter part thereof. And this encreased the Hatred of the Parliament and Nation against them, though at present they knew not how to revenge it.

### S E C T. XXIV.

THE next thing wherein they met with no small Disappointment, was the Death of Mr. *Bedloe*, who lying sick at *Bristol*, they hoped when he died to make great advantage of his Death, by the removal of one of the two Witnesses of the Plot, judging that *Oats* now having lost his Second, his Evidence would be much weakned thereby. And they

they thought to Publish a false Recantation of *Bedloes*, wherein upon his Deathbed he should retract all his former Evidence. But the Lord, in whose hands is the power of Life and Death, did not suffer him to be so surprized thereby, as many are, so as to make no provision for the good of their surviving Friends; for as he kept him faithful to his Testimony, maugie all the Temptations to get him recant it, from the time he gave it in till then, so he helped him at his Death to make prudent provision for the benefit of the Protestant interest after his Decease, as far as lay in his power; by sending for the Mayor of *Bristol*, and giving his dying confirmation of all the Testimony he had before given about the Popish Plot. Who dying a Protestant, whose Religion allows no dying with a lye in their Mouths, under the pretence of serving their Church thereby, as Popery doth; begot full satisfaction of the truth of all his Evidence, in the hearts of all people, except the Papists and their well wishers; who were ready to gnaw their venomous Tongues for pain, because they could not reproach his dying Evidence as they had his living.

About this time divers other obstructions God layed in the way of their design, by mingling a perverse Spirit among them, as the Scripture words it, whereby they fell into animosities and contentions among themselves, which conduced much to the detriment of their own cause and preservation of the Protestants from their Bloody hands.

#### SECT. XXV.

THE great *Ahitophel*, the chiefeft head-piece, and deepest Councillor of all the *Cabal*, one whose Political Stature, was like that of *Saul's*, from the Shoulders upward above the rest, had given Council for sending the D. of *Y.* into *Scotland*, which, considering the Circumstances, was not unwise Council. For this Nation being in so great a ferment

ment about the Popish and Sham Protestant Plot together; and the Parliament so highly incensed against him, as the principal cause thereof, for which in the last Session a Vote was past for his Exclusion from the Crown; and the Council, and Bishops, and Parliament, and all modelled for his Service when he should come there; there could not easily have been found an expedient for his Safety and Service, like to this project of *Landerdales*, for a present shelter from the storm which was like to fall on him at the Session of Parliament approaching, and a sure refuge for the future in case of extremity.

But God turns this wise Councillors Council against himself, and makes it the cause of his own Disesteem and Ruin. A just recompence of all the Villanies he had committed against this as well as his Native Country; of all the Treachery and Murders he had contrived both in *England* and *Scotland*. For no sooner was the Duke come there but he shews his resentment of *Landerdales* Council for sending him thither, by undermining *Landerdales* Interest; whose power in *Scotland* for a long tract of time had been absolute, and his Government Arbitrary; and from that time he became here as well as there, but an Almanack out of Date. And though he had not the like fate as his Predecessor *Ahitophel*, to dye a sudden and easie death by hanging himself; yet he executed himself by vexation of heart, to think he should live so long to see his Council slighted as *Ahitophels* was. And yet his Antagonists had little cause to Triumph in their Victory over him, for the throwing him down was the throwing down the greatest Pillar of their Cause, for Devilish Policy and Treachery, joined with undaunted Audacity. This was he against whom the Parliament Address the King, to remove him from his Councils and Presence, as knowing him to be the principal contriver of all our mischiefs, but could not prevail; he stood against all Parliamentary assaults, as a Rock against the Waters. This is that great *Philistine* who bid

L

Defiance

Defiance to *Israel*, and when he was forewarned by his Friends of the danger he lay under from an approaching Parliament, used to answer with the highest disdain, *Let them Bark and we will bite*. But though the Parliament nor People of *England* nor *Scotland* could reach him till now; yet at last the hand of the Lord reached him, and brought down his proud heart and gray hairs with sorrow to the grave. Thus the Wickedest and Wisest Councillor, of his time, that these Nations knew, was taken in his own craftiness, and snared in the works of his own hands.

#### SECT. XXVI.

**T**HE Lord also kindled a fire of Contention between *Portsmouth* and *T.* which proved a great *Remora* in carrying on their Design. How far she ruled a great Man on this side the Water, is so well known to the Nation by miserable experience, to the impoverishing thereof, that I need say little of it: What an influence she had on the French King also, few are ignorant of. Wherefore considering with her self how great her interest was both here and there, she thought she might be able to get an Act for exclusion of him whom the Parliament could not, and exalt her Bastard in his stead; whereupon getting the Secretary *S.* over to her side, and such other Instruments as were meet for her purpose, she labours to ingratiate her Self and Son with the Parliament and People, and promotes the Sitting of the Parliament, which the other endeavoured with all his might to hinder, had he not been compelled to it by necessity: Which arose partly by occasion of the opposition she made to his Interest here, and also with the French King; for she encreased the Disesteem which *Buckingham* had before brought him and his Councils in with him, to a far greater degree; insomuch that he now favoured her Interest very much, and slighted the others; and on that account



compt refused to assist with mony at this time, which much helpt on the Parliaments Sitting.

SECT. XXVII.

THE Pope likewise had been solicited with great importunity to assist in this time of great exigency, and opportunity of striking before the Parliament came, by Cardinal *Norfolk* and the Dutcheß of *Modena*; but having received some disgust, failed of supplies expected from him. And the Jesuits beyond Sea being applied to for help at this dead lift, pleaded their inability, by reason of the vast charges they had been at already in the business, and the great expences they were at still in providing for many Fugitives from *England*, and those that were in Prison here, or absconded for fear of Justice. So that Mony failing on all hands there was no avoiding the Parliaments Sitting, after they had kept them off by one Prorogation after another Twelve months space. Thus the Lord by a Series of disappointments, in the management of their Design, since they had Dissolved the last Parliament, brings them to do the thing which above all others they hated, letting the Parliament Sit.

SECT. XXVIII.

AND now this Parliament being Assembled, were entertained with a most gracious Exhortation to the great Duty of giving Mony, from the thredbare Argument of Alliances, (as little valued as understood by them) and the great Debts incurred by *Tangier*. But the Parliament knowing how the Mony should be used if they gave any, and how Popish Designs had been all along prosecuted, under pretence of Protestant Alliances, would not be caught in the old snare. And as their Predecessors having been so often cheated, by putting the Mony they gave into the Exchequer, where it was put to a contrary

use to what they gave it, at last would trust the Exchequer no more with the Mony they could not avoid raising, for the Disbanding the Popish Army, but put it into the Chamber of London, where Faith and Truth were observed; so this Parliament being warned by the cheats put upon the Nation, by former Alliances, would trust to no more of their making, nor give any Mony to support them as they were desired. Thus they met with the usual fate of common Cheats at last, to be believed by no body that knew them; and this was no small vexation to them to perceive their Faith now utterly and irrecoverably lost at home and abroad also. For notwithstanding the overtures that had been made by us to the Confederates about Defensive Alliances, that under Colour thereof the Parliament might be induced to give supplies; they smelt the Design, and reposed as little confidence in their Promises as did the Parliament here.

#### SECT. XXIX.

**B**UT they not only missed the good they hoped for from this Parliament, by the wheedle above mentioned, but underwent some considerable inconveniences by this Session. For the Parliament in stead of giving Mony, as soon as the wonted formalities of a new Parliament were over, called the Obstructors and Abhorers of Petitioning for their Sitting to account; and Voted them betrayers of the Liberties of England; whereby they gave no small check to Arbitrary Power, and strengthened the hands of the People in Asserting their Rights and Priviledges.

#### SECT. XXX.

**T**HE Parliament also sent for *Dangerfield*, and examined him about that Cursed Sham Presbyterian Plot, he had been employed in, and found out the bottom of the Roguery;

Roguery ; and though they durst not venture upon the Contrivers of it, because they were too big for them, yet they passed a Vote, and made an Address, *That during the intervals of Parliament the Popish Designs have been contriving with unparalleld insolence, and among others, A most Damnable and Wicked Design, to transfer their own crimes upon many of the Protestant Nobility and Gentry, hoping thereby to destroy those, who with the greatest Zeal and Integrity endeavoured to prosecute them.* By which Judgment of Parliament upon that second Popish Plot, the Nation was excited to a greater degree of Zeal and Watchfulness against the Popish Confederates then ever, and there was no possibility of baffling it, as perhaps otherwise might have been, had not the Parliament had the Examination of it, and given their Judgment upon it.

SECT. XXXI.

THEY likewise Discovered the Treachery of several great Ministers of State, and Addressed the King against them, as Persons Dangerous to the Government ; and though their Complaints on behalf of the People were little regarded, yet those publick Enemies were greatly scared, and could not be at ease while the Parliament Sat, and got a lasting note of Infamy thereby ; and the King by protecting and continuing them, lost the love of the People more and more, nor could ever get the love of a Parliament again while he lived. And at last the Parliament rising higher and higher in their opposition to Popery and Prerogative, those dearly beloved things to the Enemies of the Nation, and finding no means effectual to secure us against them but by excluding the Duke, pass a Bill for that end, as the last Parliament had done before ; but sending it up to the House of Lords it is thrown out, and they who threw it out sufficiently exposed to the hatred of the People as they deserved for betray-

betrayers of the Protestant Religion. So finding themselves surrounded with mischiefs, by occasion of this Session, and no Money to be had from this Parliament neither, they were forced to Prorogue them for a few days to quiet the People, but with an intention to Dissolve them before the 26<sup>th</sup> of January come, the time to which they were Prorogued; which was done by Proclamation, and a new one called to Sit at Oxford the 21<sup>st</sup> of March following.

Oxford was a place more fit for the Scene next designed, then *Westminster*, and therefore chosen for the place of Session, and all preparations suited to it; for they had seen by the choice the Countries made of the two last Parliaments what choice they must expect in this; and therefore did not call them, in expectation that they would be any way serviceable to their Design, but to execute a damnable design upon them, the same for substance with that former Plot, called the *Meal-Tub Plot*, but differing in circumstances.

The Country more and more convinced every day of the Villanous Contrivances against their Liberties and Religion, increased in their Zeal against the Enemies of both, and chose the most zealous Men they could find against Popery and Arbitrary Government, which being signified up hither, all thoughts of benefit by them was laid aside by the Cabal, and they were absolutely resolved to put in execution the Invention of a Sham-plot upon the Protestants, which had for the present unfortunately miscarried in *Dangerfield's* hands, who having once quitted their Service, and discovered all the Intreague, for ever after bid defiance to them, and persevered in his Fidelity to the Protestant Interest to the last; for which he suffered most cruel Whippings afterward, and lost his Life also. But though they lost their first Instrument, yet they had not lost their Design; for no sooner was that Snare broken, but they were for contriving another, and therefore look out for another Tool that might accomplish that wherein *Dangerfield* miscarried. And one *Fitz-*  
*harris*

*harris* an Irish-man, low in the World, and so the more likely to bite at the Bait, being recommended as a Person well qualified for the Service, is brought into a great Mans Presence at *White-hall*, who caressed him with all the signs of endearedness that he had *Dangerfield* before; telling him of the greatness and necessity of the Work he was to be employed in, and promising all assistance and encouragement that he could desire for carrying on this blessed Work. *Fitz-harris* engaging to devote himself to the business, is supplied with Plenty of Money, hundreds of Pounds at a time, and had liberty of Access when he pleased, and thought he was now got into the high way of Riches and Honour, and brings over several Irish Men to the Design: So that it was pretty well advanced, and in a good degree of Readiness against an opportunity; and they resolved to execute it at the time of the Parliaments convening.

The manner how it was to be effected, was, by getting many treasonable Papers written, and privately conveying them into several Houses at *Oxford*, and slipping them into Gentlemen's Pockets before they came into the House, and they to be seized with the Papers about them before they came there.

# SECT. XXXII.

**B**UT as they made use of a New Method for accomplishing their Treachery, so the Lord was pleased to make use of a new Method for discovering thereof. *Fitz-harris* having his Instructions to correspond with Persons that had acquaintance with *Shaftsbury*, and other eminent Persons among the Protestants to trapan them; and knowing one *Everard* an Irish-man, an old Familiar of his, whom he knew to be out of employment, communicates his mind to him, and tempts him to assist in the Work; which *Everard* complying with, between them they framed a desperate Treasonable Libel, which

was

was to be Father'd upon the whole Fanatick Party, but especially upon *Shaftsbury* and others of his Quality, who were zealous Persons in discovery of the Popish Plot. *Everard* speaks *Fitz-harris* fair, tells him he can discover great Intreagues of *Shaftsbury* and the Citizens, and blows him up with high expectations of that kind; he, big with confidence of Success, goes to *Whitehall*, acquaints them with the great Progress he had made.

They rejoyce exceedingly at the good Tidings, encourage and quicken him in the Work, concluding they had *Everard* fast enough in the Snare, and would force him to witness what they had a mind to, for saving his own Life. But *Everard* outwitted *Fitz-harris*, and his Masters too; for a time being set to finish the Treasonable Declaration between them, *Everard* gets Sir *William Waller* and one *Smith* to be in the next Room privately, where through a Wall they might both see and hear what passed between him and *Fitz-harris*, who saw *Fitz-harris* make alterations in the Declaration with his own hand, and heard him dictate part of the same to *Everard*; and having got witnesses, presently goes to the Secretary, accuses *Fitz-harris* of High-Treason, produces his Witnesses to the Charge; whereupon the Secretary could not avoid seizing him, and sending him to *Newgate*.

And thus this wicked miserable Wretch, who for Money laid Snares for innocent Persons Lives, is snared in his own Devices, to the loss of his own Life in the end. And the Treachery of those who set him on work was made manifest as the Noon-day light, tho none durst speak out what they knew; for he being sensible of *Coleman's* Fate, who notwithstanding all the fair promises of bringing him off, by those that employed him, was left in the Lurch, and hanged at last, made known his Desire to confess what he was privy to, which one of the Sheriffs hearing, went to *Whitehall* to desire leave to examine him, which was denyed, and the Secretary sent to do it; who making light of the business, at last the Recorder



## *Twenty nine Years Wonders in England.* 81

Recorder and several Justices of the City went to *Newgate*, and upon Examination by them, he made great Discovery of the Work he was employed in, to put Treasonable Papers into Gentlemen's Pockets at *Oxford* at the meeting of the Parliament, and of the Persons who employed him; for which Discovery they were severely check'd, as if they had medled with matters out of their Sphere, and his case became unpardonable, it being resolved that he should die, if there were no more Men in *England*.

The Parliament coming together the 21<sup>st</sup> of *March*, the Commons understanding this new enterprize against their Lives and Religion both, which was prevented by the timely Discovery of the Manager in the very fact, and of the Confession he had made to the City Justices when he was in *Newgate*, but was presently after removed to the *Tower*, the Mystery of which they well perceived, resolve to Impeach him, that so being brought up to *Oxford*, they might have the full examination of the matter, and go to the bottom of this Hellish Conspiracy. But such Artifice was used to oppose this Impeachment in the House of Lords, that it was not received there: Thereupon the Commons Vote the rejecting of their Impeachment of *Fitz-harris*, was a denial of the Commons Justice, and that no Inferior Court should dare to try him, Which Vote being passed, and *Fitz-harris* his Wife and Maid being come to Town, to acquaint the Parliament with what they were privy to, the Parliament in all hast is dissolved, it being not to be indured that they should take Cognisance of this Affair. And though the Commons thought *Fitz-harris* safe from Condemnation by any inferior Court of Judicature, they were mistaken; for some, who knew the secret Resolution of calling no more Parliaments, till the Grand Design were accomplish'd, slighting their Vote, tried him and condemned him to Death, contrary to the Will of the House of Commons, the Representative of the Nation.

## S E C T. XXXIII.

**H**OWever, great was the mercy and goodness of God in disappointing this Diabolical project of the Popish Conspirators, as he had done the rest ; and preserving those worthy Patriots of their Country and Religion, who, when they met at *Oxford* for securing both, were appointed as Sheep to the Slaughter.

But though they mist their aim of cutting them off, by putting treasonable Papers in their Pockets, yet they resolved not to give over the project of laying treasonable matters to their Charge, as soon as opportunity served ; but it was not judged meet to do it instantly, before their departure from *Oxford*, but that all things should be predisposed in order thereto.

As their beginning had been represented formidable to the Government by the Foot and Horse Guards, planted in and about the City, so their end was also. As soon as they were dissolv'd the King in all hast hurries away for *Windso*r in an unusual Coach, as if there had been a Plot for his Surprize-discovered ; whereas the prosecution of the Plot for taking away their Lives, which had miscarried in *Fitz-harris* his hand, was the thing intended as soon as *Fitz-harris* could be dispatched out of the way, which by their old method of creating a new Judge Drudge, ( now the old one was grown useles ) was soon effected. There was one thing in the mean while preparatory to the Tragedy intended of absolute necessity, and that was, the blackning the two last Parliaments.

## S E C T. XXXIV.

**I**N order to which divers Scurrilous Pamphlets are emitted to cast all the Reproach they could upon them, and after that

that a Declaration, shewing the Reasons of their Dissolution, wherein were such strange Reflections on those Honourable Assemblies, faithful Assertors of the true Religion, as well as the Liberties and Properties of their Country, that tended to render the being and memory of Parliaments odious to succeeding times. But their Votes since publish'd, abundantly vindicated their Actions, against the Obloquy of their Enemies, and rendred their Memory truly blessed, while the Name of their greatest Adversaries shall rot for ever. This Declaration is ordered to be read in all Parish Churches, and presently follows a Flood of Addresses from the Flattering Tribe, of Betrayers of their Country, with Thanks for this most gracious Declaration, and the Gazetts were stuffed with little else.

And now they had done all they could to calumniate them, the next thing is to pick out some of the leading Men for Zeal and Interest among them, whom they had devoted to Destruction; and by a Company of Hireling Varlets, known by the reproachful Name of Irish Evidence afterwards, to get them accused of Treason, not doubting if they could carry it against them, they might afterwards fix it on whom they pleased. But though they were provided with Evidence, yet they were not sure of a Jury that would accept it; and therefore, unless they could get Sheriffs, such as they knew would return Juries fit for the business, all would be lost labour.

S E C T. XXXV.

**W**Herefore all their Interest is improved, and all possible Diligence exerted to get Sheriffs rightly qualified at the next Election: But herein the Lord disappointed their Expectations; for though they were confident to prevail in the Election, yet when the time came, the Persons they design'd lost it by near a thousand Voices: and this was

a most fatal and ominous frustration of their Intreague. Yet some way or other they were resolved to drive the business on ; and so their Witnesses being fixt, every ones part assign'd, their Salaries settled, all things ready, two of the lesser sort are first seized, *Colledge* and *Rouse*, to try if they, to save themselves, would accuse the Great Ones ; but that failing, *Shaftsbury* is seized, and all his Papers in his Closet carried away, without marking or taking account of them, which he desired, and all three are committed close Prisoners to the Tower ; and the Sessions for *London* and *Middlesex* being begun, and they knowing their Interest in the Bench, concluded if they could get the Grand Jury to find the Bill, to try them here : And they begun with *Colledge* first, not questioning if he were convicted, he would accuse the rest to save his own Life : And accordingly, a new Trick is found out, for the Jury to examine the Witnesses in the hearing of the Court, that so no Questions might be put to the Witnesses but what the Court approved.

S E C T. XXXVI.

THE Jury being thus imposed on by the Court, contrary to Law, suspected this irregular Practice to be for no good end ; and after they had been publicly examin'd, demand their Right to examine them in private and apart, which being granted, because it could not safely be denied, they found them in several Tales contradictory to one another ; and some of them were so hamper'd, that they confessed they were hired to give Evidence, whereupon the Jury brought in the Bill *Ignoramus*. And this was the famous Jury whereof worthy *Willmore* was the Fore-man, who were so shamefully reviled by the Friends to Popery and Slavery, for their faithful asserting Truth and Righteousness, and exposed all of them to the Revenge of the Court, and *Willmore* imprisoned, and after forced to fly his Country for the good Service

Service he had done it, and continued many years beyond the Seas in exile ; finding that Scripture true by experience, *He that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey* ; however this was another disappointment to these cursed Designers.

But though this project failed, they had another in reserve, and that was to transfer the Indictment to the *Oxford Assizes*, where the Sheriff being a trusty Friend, they were assured of a Jury for their purpose ; and thither is poor *Colledge* hurried to be made a Sacrifice to the Vengeance of the Popish Plotters, and all his Papers which he had prepared, for the help of his memory in making his Defence, are taken from him, by a Messenger, as he was going to the Court to receive his Tryal. And Judges, Sheriff, and Jury, being all of the same stamp, he is Condemned to Death by the same Evidence which the honest *London* Jury detected to be false, and rejected therefore.

#### SECT. XXXVII.

AND yet in this they missed their principal aim, for they little valued the life of this poor creature alone, but thought he being Condemned, would be brought over to be a Witness against the Lord *Shaftsbury*, and other great Persons ; but the Lord frustrated their intentions, by strengthening him, so that he disdained their temptations, freely and courageously laying down his life, rather than save it by such an abominable practice.

Yet since they had found so good success as to cut off one Protestant under the name of a Plotter, they were wonderfully elevated, with hopes of success in the case of the Protestant Lords in custody, and first concluded to begin with *Shaftsbury*.

## SECT. XXXVIII.

**B**UT their *Irish* Evidence being grown so odious to the *English* Nation, they were loath to venture it in an ordinary way of Tryal, and consulting the best expedient they could think of, they judged the Tryal by the Court of *Verge* to be the safest way, and therefore they Summon the Judges to give in their Opinion in the Case, hoping they would favour the Design, for fear of falling under displeasure. But herein they were disappointed, for he that served them in the business of cutting off *Fitzharris*, would not serve them in this, but was the first Man that opposed it; and the rest following his example, this project came to nought.

## SECT. XXXIX.

**T**HIS contrivance failing, their brains fertile in Villany, produce another in a little time; and that is, to procure two fresh Witnesses, who had never yet appeared on the Stage, which by raking all the Goals again they doubted not to find.

Much industry being used, one *Booth*, a Goal-bird, known to most Goals in *England*, and formerly condemned to be hanged for Roguery, but a good Schoolar and a Man in Holy Orders, is found out fit for the purpose, and engaged upon the terms others were. He promises to bring in one Captain *Wilkinson*, a man unstained in his reputation, but poor; he sets upon *Wilkinson*, proposes the Business to be Sworn to him, that *Shaftsbury* had raised a Troop of Horse, and *Wilkinson* and he were of that Troop. *Wilkinson* plays with him, and gives him fair words which he interprets for compliance; and being himself overjoyed, carries the good tidings to those who employed him, to their great consolation



## *Twenty nine Years Wonders in England.* 87

on in their dejected Case. They carry him to *S. Jenkins*, who readily swears him to the Charge abovesaid, and he promises *Wilkinson* should make Oath of the same; but when *Wilkinson* is desired to go and swear, he refuses; they threaten to accuse him of Treason if he will not answer their ends; he is sent for to *Whitehall*, examined before the King, lays open all the Roguery, yet checkt and threatned; notwithstanding which, he publishes a Book, and his employer *Grahams* Villany: Thus the Lord brings this cursed device to nought also, and they are taken in their own craftiness.

### S E C T. XL.

**Y**ET would they not by all these frustrations see the hand of God, but proceed still further in their Treachery; and Mr. *Rouse* being in the Tower for pretended Treason, they resolved to practise all methods upon him to make him an Evidence against *Shaftsbury*, &c. They tempt him by promises, that not taking, they threaten him with Death except he would comply to give Evidence against him; he still persists in denial; whereupon they got a couple of Witnesses by means of their old procurer of Evidence, who swore Treasonable words against him; an Indictment is thereupon framed, given in to the Jury, those fresh Witnesses, though examined in Court, and the Attorney by, had the same fate with the stale; they were found in nonsense and contradictions, and the Bill rejected. Thus again the Lord carries their Councils headlong, so that their hands cannot perform their enterprize, to bring *Rouse* to swear against *Shaftsbury*, as they hoped they might if he had been condemned.

## SECT. XLI.

THE providence of God having thus disappointed their expectations of effecting their Design, by the new false Witnesses, they were now destitute of all hopes of succeeding in this method by false Evidence, except they could get Juries suitable thereto. And now the Term coming on, and not being able to detain them in Custody any longer without a Tryal, they are necessitated to make the utmost of their old Evidence, though both hated and despised by all people who had the least regard to honesty or piety, hoping at least by the multitude of them to fix some reproach upon the Prisoners, though they did not carry the cause; and resolving to give out, that if they were acquitted, it was the fault of the Jury, not the Evidence; and concluding that if they did escape this year, they should by the help of their trusty Lord Mayor Sir J. M. lately chosen, procure Juries to do their business the next. And accordingly having got a paper of Association of Protestants for mutual defense against Popery (though 'twas no more then the House had Voted before) which was affirmed to be found in *Shaftsbury's* House, and fitted the Evidence to it, they prefer a Bill of Indictment against *Shaftsbury*. But the Evidence was so lame and ridiculous that it was impossible for any rational person to believe it, and so the Bill met with the fate of *Ignoramus*, as the rest of their sham Indictments had done in *London*, and the Lords are Bailed out of the Tower. And from henceforth they betake themselves to a new Method, whereby though the Lord suffered them to prevail for a great while, yet at last he brought their fatal disappointment upon them.

After all the resistance they had met with from the Angel of the Lord, who had stood hitherto in their way, as really, though not so sensibly as he did in the way of that cursed Coun-

Councillor *Balaam*, *Israel's* deadly enemy, hindring their progress in the same work of destroying the Lords people he was engaged in, they, like him harden their hearts against God, making them as an Adamant Stone, and as it is worded, in *Job* 15. 25, 26. *Stretching out their hands against God, and strengthening themselves against the Almighty, running upon him even upon his neck, upon the thick bosses of his Bucklers;* and resolve to make further experiment, as he did for destroying our *Israel* by turning their Popish Devilish Plots upon the Protestants.

As they had before endeavourd to render the two last Parliaments vile and infamous to the Nation and whole World, by the Declaration sent out after their Dissolution, and by their Debauching of the fiery Zealots of the Church to send Addressees of thanks for that gracious Declaration; an unparalleled fascination for men professing themselves Protestants to become Traditors of the Religion and Liberty of their Country, by courting those who had been guilty of so many violations of the Peoples Rights by illegal Prorogations and Dissolutions of Protestant Parliaments, when they were labouring as for life to save the Nation from Popery and Slavery; I say, as they used all their endeavours to expose them by the means aforesaid, so finding at the present they could not fix Treason on the leading men of them upon the business of Association, a thing Voted by the whole House: The next thing is to get the unthinking people of the Nation to send up Addressees of Abhorrency of Associations, the only rational means now left to save the Land from being swallowed up by Popery and Arbitrary Government; and accordingly those Knaves and Fools who had before so basely cringed to their Masters cudgel, as to profess their Abhorrency of Petitioning for the Sitting of the Parliament when he forbad them, in such a time of the Nations agony, now in the great encrease of it declare their Abhorrence of Association. What thing so base and abominable in the Eyes of

God or Man, that these servile wretches will not fetch and carry for love of the Cross or fear of the Cudgel ? The right off-spring of *Old Toner*.

But this project had a double Design, as well to divide the Protestant interest by irreconcilable animosities one against another, as to stigmatize those Worthies of the Protestant cause, devoted to slaughter as soon as right Juries could be got, with the Brand of Traitors before-hand, under the name of Association ; that so the generality of the People might be prepared to give them up, or at least acquiesce in their Murder, for fear of being counted guilty of the same fortitude and zeal for their Country, for which they were made a Sacrifice.

The next thing was to get a company of mercenary Masquerade Protestants ( who serve no God but their Belly, though they seem to make the King their Deity ) by their Treacherous Pens to bewitch the Nation, by ridiculing the Popish Plot, and the Murder of Sir *E. B. Godfrey* ; transubstantiating the Popish into a Protestant Plot, and Predicating the most edifying Doctrin of Arbitrary Government ; but among all that took up the Gantlet that day in behalf of Popery, under a Protestant Vizard, no Penman ever performed such a part as *Trusty Roger* ; and never were the Popish Party more concerned to ply the Devil for his help, then in the choice of this Scribe to their Assembly. This is as eminent a Successor of *Judas* as ever sat in his chair, who by betraying the Protestant cause for Money, with a kiss, hath given better proof of his succession to *Judas*, then the Pope, whose drudge he hath been, can do of his succession to *Peter*. A Man so well instructed in the Address of *Hail Master* to his Saviour whom he hath sold, the Protestant Religion he would seem to own ; so instituted in the Jesuits Morals of Slandering true Protestants, that he rightly merits the Title of the poor *Sambenito* maker ; and for his most transcendent Gifts in Baffling Truth, and Vindicating Tyranny, The Devils  
princi-

principal Secretary of State, for he hath done more for the support of his Kingdom in the World by his Pen, then any Vassal he had in all his vast Dominions; he will not fail of an exceeding great reward from his Master in the World to come, without true repentance, which is very rarely given to such treacherous and inveterate enemies to God and his cause; though oftentimes they are made patterns of *Judas* his Repentance, by executing themselves for want of an Executioner.

These hireling Scriblers by the envenomed Ink of their Devilish Pens, had so corrupted the vital Blood of a great part of the Nation, that whatever Treacherous proposals were made by their Superiors, as surely took as fire with the best tinder. And now having listed themselves under the Devils Banners, and advanced so far in his Service of betraying their Country, as to publish their Abhorrency of Petitioning for Parliaments Sitting when forbid, their thanks for a Declaration against them when Dissolved Illegally, their Abhorrence of that damnable Doctrin of Self-preservation under the notion of Association (being fallen below the state of Kine and Swine, who presently Associate the whole herd to defend one another against the Invasion of a Dog) their Master hath a further piece of drudgery for them to do, and that is the surrender of their Charters into the Kings hands, thereby subjecting their own and Posterities Religion, Liberties, and Properties to his Will and Pleasure. These Men derive their pedigree from that infamously famous *Esau*, who is recorded in Holy Writ for the Abhorrency of all Ages, to have been a *Despiser of his Birth-right*. A new sort of Traditors unknown to the World before, who gave up all their Natural and Civil Rights at once, and in effect the Bible also: for 'twas not likely they should hold that long when they had made themselves Vassals to the Will of their Rulers; who had abundantly manifested their Design to set up Popery, by imposing the Publick Professi-

on thereof upon *Holland*, as I have shewed before, the Armies they had raised by Popish Commissions, the stifling the Popish Plot by clearing *Wakeman* and the rest, against positive Evidence of Witnesses owned by Parliaments; Dissolving four successive Parliaments in the midst of prosecuting the Popish Plot, countenancing the two Protestant Sham Plots, maintaining an indissoluble League with *France*, and many other ways, I have not time to mention, notorious to the whole Nation.

Yet after all this, I say, many such Traitors there were to their Religion, Country, Relations and Posterity, as to give up the Charters committed to their trust into the hands of such Governors. Though blessed be God there were several Corporations who maugre all the temptations they had by Promises and Threats, fulfilled the Trust their Ancestors had committed to them, and never delivered up their Charters to the last; among whom the Honorable City of *London* to their everlasting praise was the chief.

### S E C T. XLII.

**F**OR though Secretary *J.* and the rest of the Confederates in the City, laboured by Clubs held at several places to pervert all the Citizens they could, in order to the getting such a Common Council as might betray the Cities Charter into their hands, yet there was such a faithful Common Council chosen in the year 1681. that Nobly and Resolutely defended their Charter and never would resign it.

The art of wheedling not prevailing with the Citizens in the choice of a Common Council, they see that unless open force be joyned with secret fraud, they shall never be able to effect their business about Juries; they resolve therefore to practise both ways.

They use their utmost endeavours to debauch the younger tribe of the City; and since they cannot get the Masters on  
their



## *Twenty nine Years Wonders in England.* 93

their side, to entice the Servants, by rioting and feasting them with Bucks, to confront their Masters, and enter into an Association of their making, which could not be unlawful upon that account, though as Diabolical an Invention as any of the former. To get them in a readiness at a word of command to make a Mutiny, and fall upon their Masters for that unpardonable Crime, of refusing to give up their Charters.

Moreover, they set those Popish Braves known by the name of *Tories*, to out-face the Truth, deride the Plots Popish and Sham Protestant both, with worthy *Godfreys* murder, to cry out, *Forty One* with open Mouths, cry up Arbitrary Government, and confront all faithful and zealous Friends of Religion and Liberty, under the Name of *Whigs*, and those who were Well-wishers to it, but of a more cool and wary Temper to avoid their Snares, by the name of *Trimmers*. The Coffee Houses, Coaches, all publick Places and Companies were so filled with this sort of Popish Spies, that an honest Man knew not where to be safe, except among his acquaintance. These are the same Persons of honour who had on all occasions made full proof of their Loyalty, by abhorring Petitions, Associations, betraying Parliaments, Laws, Liberties, Religion, every thing called Sacred, paying a great deference to, and every where blazoning the praises of their Sire, the *Popish Observer*.

Having now got a Right Principled Mayor as Heart could wish, and so many seditiously affected Citizens at their beck to second any violent attempt upon the Cities Liberties, they resolve now to play the Game of *Have at all*, projected the year before, but for want of a Mayor wholly their Creature, could not till now be effected, to force Sheriffs upon the City, and consequently Juries also; and by that means to enslave the Nation; giving out to their Confidants assurance, that there should never a Parliament come, till they had got one for their turn; and putting into Places of Trust both

both Civil and Military their devoted Vassals, run down Truth and turned Justice into Wormwood over all the Nation, and nothing goes for a proof of Loyalty, but Drinking Healths to the Prosperity of the D. of Y. and Confusion of Parliaments.

As for the Sheriffs of the City, 'tis voted among them, That the Mayor shall drink to one whom they will nominate to him, and he shall *volens nolens* be imposed on the City; none being judged so fit for promoting the Grand Design, as D.N. Brother to the Judge of that Name: The Mayor obeys, is drunk to, goes to the Court of Aldermen, and signs a Bond to serve Sheriff for the next year before the day of Election by the Citizens, whose right it was to choose their Sheriffs comes. The day of Election coming, the Mayor is instructed to alter the Form of the Precept choosing for Sheriffs, and cause it to be drawn for choosing one. The Mayor having received a new Precept from the Court, imposes a new one upon the City; they refuse it, and go on according to the Right of their Charter, to choose two faithful Friends to Religion and Liberty, in opposition to *North* and another put up by the Court, and carry it by a great Number. The Cabal hearing of it, for delay before the Poll was quite done, order the Mayor to dissolve the Hall, and stop the finishing of the Poll, that it might not be declared; he commands it, but the Citizens refuse to obey, finishing the Poll; which done, the Sheriffs adjourn according to course to declare the Poll; but in the Interim the Confederates get some to swear a Riot against the Sheriffs before the Council at *Whitehall*, they are sent to the *Tower*, but suddenly by *Habeas Corpus* get their Liberty, and in Defiance of the Mayors opposition, declare the Poll for *Papillion* and *Dubois* by near double the number. But an order of Council coming, though against Law, they were forced to renew the Poll, by which it went more against them than before; yet being resolved to have it one way or other, the Mayor is ordered to set his Officers to Poll, and

and though there were but 1200 for their side, and 2400 on *Papillion* and *Dubois's*, yet the Mayor declares for the former: an unheard of and almost incredible Act of Injustice. However *Box*, for whom the Mayor declared, wisely foreseeing the event of such violent proceedings, refuses to hold, and they are forced to seek another in his stead. *Rich* being a Man for their turn, they conclude he should be the Man, who at the day of Election, instead of being put up by the Sheriffs, and proclaimed by the Cryer, as usual, is whispered by the Common Serjeant to some of his Friends to be chosen, and afterwards the Mayor told of it, though there were not an 100 hands for, and 2000 against him; and the Sheriffs attempting to take the Poll, according to their Places, a new Riot is sworn against them at *Whitehall*; and the day before *Michaelmas*, 1682. the time for swearing Sheriffs being come, great Numbers of honest and worthy Citizens coming to introduce their duly Elected Sheriffs, *Papillion* and *Dubois*, find the Hall filled with Soldiers, who keep them out; and the Mayor orders the Hustings to be kept with Pikemen and Musqueteers ready cock'd and charg'd, and swears *North* and *Rich* by force of Arms, contrary to the consent of the City, and commands all Persons to depart.

Thus at last they weathered the main Point, and having got Sheriffs to their mind, they doubted not of Juries also, and resolve with all convenient speed to cut off all who stand in their way; the most eminent Assertors of the Protestant Religion, and zealous Antagonists of Popery and Arbitrary Rule are the marks levell'd at, as well as the Discoverers of their cursed Plots, to be revenged on them, and baffle their Discoveries. The Protestant Dissenters, whom four Parliaments would have eased of their Intolerable Burthens, if they had been permitted to sit, feel the whole weight of Laws made against Popery laid on their Shoulders, and are persecuted at that unchristian and inhumane rate by one who had so often declared himself for, and promised them Liberty

ty, that no Tongue nor Pen knows how to set forth. *Shaftsbury* and the rest of the Protestant Associators are sought after by the Popish Conspirators; but he seeing the Sheriffs fixed, well knowing the conclusion would follow such Premises, made his escape in time beyond the Seas: Others who stood their ground for a time were quickly forced to fly or abscond; and those who did not, being seized, are compelled to betray their Cause and Friends, or else embrace an unjust and violent Death. Among the latter whereof, were the Noble *Russel*, *Sidney*, and afterwards Sir *Thomas Armstrong*, *Cornish*, and many others, who scorned to purchase their Lives at that sordid rate of becoming Instruments to take away their Brethrens; became willing Sacrifices for their Cause, and died like Honourable Patriots and Confessors of the Protestant Religion.

And now they ride triumphantly on, not questioning by such Judges, Juries, and Witnesses as they had at last obtained, to cut off all their Opposers by degrees, under a form of Law and Justice; and not a *Naboth*, who refused to give away his Fathers Inheritance, his Birth-rights and Priviledges, that should scape their Bloody Hands. As for those who had been Discoverers of their hellish Plots, they fall next under consideration, and shall be convicted of Perjury. The Bells ring backward every where. Two several Inditements of Perjury are preferred against poor *Oats* by the Command and Direction of King *Charles* the Second, who, together with all the Parliaments that had sat since the discovery of the Popish Plot, had own'd his Evidence before.

### S E C T. XLIII.

**B**UT Ecce! before the time he had appointed for *Oat's* Trial at his Bench, the Lord summons him by such a Pursevant as all his Power could not resist to stand a Trial at his Bench or Throne, which you will; where I am sure he received

received a righteous Doom according to his Deeds. But what that was, though I pretend not to determine, yet the Papers found in his Strong Box by his Brother, and publish'd after his Death by his order, with many particulars before mentioned, make it manifest, That though he had all his Lifetime professed himself a zealous Protestant, he was a real Papist. And how much *Jack Huddleston's* Absolution at the time of Death, for all the sins of his Life, conduced to the saving of his Soul, let every one Judge.

However it fared with him before the Throne of God, his ever-blessed Memory remains, especially in this Island, and all the Confederate Nations round about, whose History will never fail to set forth the most Heroick Acts of his Reign, as long as the Sun and Moon endure; and his Brother now ascends the Throne, all things being fitted before-hand for it, and Popery with him.

From henceforth those right Loyal Zealots of the Church, who shutting their Eyes against the Light, had hitherto asserted his Protestantism, were forced to lower their Top-sails, and let fall their Crests, scarce daring to lift up their Heads for shame as they went the Streets.

Yet though he had laid by his Protestant Mask, many who kept theirs on still, court him with Addresses, acknowledging his undoubted right to this Protestant Crown, though a Papist, thanking God for his accession to it, and engaging Lives and Fortunes to defend it. But above all, the Addresses that occurred, the most pleasant Spectacle to the Eyes, was that of some, who were as zealous as any for his Exclusion from the Throne, and were as thankful as any for his Ascension to it; and since they could not keep him out, declare their Joy for his coming in, owning him for their rightful Lord now by Succession, whom a little before they denied to have any Right,

*Tempora mutantur nos & mutamur in illis.*

Nay, some of these were so very forward in their Addressing,  
O that

that when I read them, I could not put the Story of *Shimei* out of my mind.

But to pass by all that trumpery of Addressees, which served to fill up the *Gazettes*, and surfeit the Stomachs of all Men of Sense and Honesty, and come to the most auspicious Acts in the beginning of his Reign. He tells the Council in his first Speech, That *since it hath pleased God he should succeed so good and gracious a Prince as his dear Brother, he was resolved to follow his Example, and most especially in that of clemency and tenderness towards his People.* And therefore his Brother out of his Clemency and tenderness having caused *Oats* to be Indited for Perjury, he, in imitation of his Vertues, caused him to be tryed for the same, and condemn'd to be Whipt on *Wednesday* from *Algate* to *Newgate* in the most merciless manner that ever English Eyes beheld: And since he was not thereby killed, on *Friday* next from *Newgate* to *Tyburn*; and all to revenge upon him the Discovery he had made of the Popish Plot. 'Twas look'd upon as a Miracle by all, that he was able to survive that cruel execution, worse than many Deaths. To this was added Imprisonment for Life, and five times standing in the Pillory yearly. And this was the first Demonstration of the Performance of his Promise of Clemency and Tenderness to his People, who now from highest to lowest ly all prostrate at his feet, and are wholly at his mercy.

The Discoverer of the Popish Plot having so largely partaken of the Clemency of both the Royal Brethren; the Protestant Brother (as he pretended) in commanding him to be Indited, and the Popish Brother to be tortured for his Discovery, and this by a formal Process in Court of Judicature, that Plot is in effect totally baffled and reversed; and from henceforth to assert a Popish Plot became a dangerous thing.

And now the next thing is to reverse the Discovery of their Roguery in the feigned Protestant Plot, wherein so many Protestant Lords and Gentlemen were by their contrivance



to be falsely accused of Treason, and made a Sacrifice to their Treachery and Revenge, had not the Lord prevented it.

The same method that was followed in reversing the former Plot must be used in this, by convicting *Dangerfield*, the Discoverer of it, of Perjury, though the Parliament had examin'd and adjusted the Discovery by an Address to the King; but now as Courts of Judicature were constituted, 'twas easie there to prove the Fox an Horned Beast, if the Lion had a mind to it: Whatever was the Kings pleasure, was made Law. That Maxim which *James* the First understood, *Let me make what Judges I will, and I will have what I please to be Law*, *James* the Second practis'd. *Dangerfield* is made guilty of Perjury, he and his Discovery run the same fate with *Oats* and his, and both the Plots are dissolved, as the Parliaments, who prosecuted them, had been before.

The like Measure unto which was afterwards made to that worthy Son, and Minister of the Church of *England*, Mr. *Johnson*, whose Heart being of a more noble Composition than the Generality of the Clergies, one of those of whom it may be said without offence to any, *Quibus meliore luto finxit præcordia Titan*; whose Generous Principles were far above the Servility and Flattery, which too many of his Brethren were guilty of, and had made an early and vigorous opposition to that time and Pope-serving Doctrine of *Non-Resistance*, when so many Pulpits sounded out little else, and valiantly defended the Gap against Popery and Arbitrary Government, till he was overpowred thereby, fined and imprisoned; and even then did not lay down his Weapons, but made a brisk attack upon it by a Printed Paper, scattered amongst the Army at the Camp, to dehort and deter them from being serviceable to it in a Military Capacity, is for these Reasons degraded, whipt from *Newgate* to *Tyburn*, and imprisoned, till the Popish King Abdicated his Throne.

Protestant Religion and Liberty being thus hardly beset on every side by Popery and Arbitrary Government, which had

now got possession of the Throne, the D. of *Monmouth*, Earl of *Argyle*, and many others, who for the opposition they had made thereto, had been forc'd to fly their Country, thinking now the Mask was pulled off, and Popery so openly professed, there was a price put into their Hands to redeem their Country from the miserable Yoak it groan'd under, resolve with such assistance as they could get, to return home, and endeavour the Restitution of their Laws and Religion, and saving the expiring Nation, not doubting of the General Concurrence of all Protestants with them in so good and glorious a Work, because the Eyes of them all, though of different Perswasions, were now opened, when bare-faced Popery sat on the Throne; but no blindness like to that of those who will not see. The Generation of Abhorrrers, who had been accustomed to Abhorring every thing which tended to the preservation or deliverance of their Country, abhorred this undertaking for those Ends, as they had done petitioning and associating before. And though the Common People shewed their true Zeal for the Protestant Cause, and love to their Country, by the multitudes that came into them, yet the Great Ones refusing to put their Necks to the Work, it miscarried for that time; and the Success which they and the generality of the Nation hoped this Enterprize would have had, was denyed, for reasons known to the infinit Wisdom of God, though perhaps above our reach.

But whatever the foolish and slavish part of Mankind judge of Actions by the events, calling Acts of Reason and Religion, if they prove unprosperous, by the Odious Name of Treason; and giving the Encomiums due to Reason and Religion unto prosperous Treason; yet the wise and generous Soul'd Persons scorn such an ignoble practice, knowing that Actions are not to be judged by the Success, but the principle Rule and end in, by, and for which they were performed, which the very Heathens were not ignorant of, tho too many professed Christians are, or by their Deeds would seem to be, condemning the most noble Actions whatever, if they miscarry.

Now

Now the Popish King hath an extraordinary opportunity put into his hands, to ingratiate himself with his People, by making good his Promise in exercising Clemency and Tenderness to them, having gotten the Victory over all his Enemies, both here and in *Scotland*, which he graciously performs, not only by cutting off the Leaders, and some principal Men, but Three hundred sixty and three Persons, by Juridical Process, managed by that unsatiable blood-sucker *J.* a Monster breathing out Slaughters, who was the only person fit to be chief Justice to a Prince of his Clemency. Besides these the number of those whom he caused to be Executed by Military Hands, in cold blood, and were hung up like Dogs on Trees, Sign-posts, and such like places, in Highways and Hedges, is more then can be numbred.

Most of these were poor plain Countrymen, who came in sincere and upright Zeal to fight for the Protestant Religion, and their Posterities Liberties, which lay gasping for life. Some were hurried up to *London* sorely wounded, and afterwards down again above sixscore miles to be Executed, and the misery they suffered by their Journey was more then Death; and to the everlasting Honour of Popish Clemency, the pious Lady *Lisle*, for harboring two of them that came to seek a Lodging of her, not knowing where to go, but one night, was put to Death also, though she knew not who they were when they came into her House.

The Protestant Interest lying a bleeding at their Feet, and all the Enemies they feared subdued, they now resolve to work out all their wicked Devices, saying, *Who shall hinder us?* But there was one Enemy still remaining, and a great One too; He that sits in the Heavens, He against whom they had so long raged, *against whom and his Anointed they had set themselves, and took Councel together, whose bands they resolved to break asunder, and to cast their cords away from them. But they imagine a vain thing. He that sat in the Heavens laughed, the Lord had them in derision. He that frustrated Baalams*  
En-

Enchantments against *Israel*, in many of his cursed projects for their total ruin, yet suffered his Devilish Council for some time to prevail against them, but at last turned his deep politick Council to the destruction of himself and those who followed it, did the like in this case; though he had for many years together brought to nought their crafty devices, and broken the snares they had laid for the Nation; yet he suffered them, for about four years past, to bring many great and wicked Devices to pass. But at last he disappoints them in the end of all their Devices, from henceforth carrying their Councils headlong, and causing them to bring ruin upon their own heads. The most remarkable particulars whereof, that occur to my memory, I shall enumerate.

#### SECT. XLIV.

**T**HE first token of his being struck with Celestial Dementation, or Spiritual Madnes, I shall mention, appeared in the Proclamation set forth for a day of publick Thanksgiving for the Victory he had obtained over the Duke of *Monmouth* and Earl of *Argyle*, and the rest of his Enemies, wherein are these expressions.

*Whereas the Lord hath been pleased in his infinite mercy not only to restore to us and our Kingdom a perfect peace, by utter dissipation of all those Rebels, but likewise to deliver into our hands the chief Heads of that horrid Traiterous Conspiracy in order to their condign punishment, That thereby nothing might remain to interrupt our peaceable Government for the future.*

This was dated *July 11. 1685.* first year of our Reign. The success he had met with against his Enemies transports him into a fit of Enthusiastical Phrenzy, so that he pretends to understand the secret ends of God in this dispensation towards him, that God had decreed the rest of his Reign to be free from all trouble and disquietness; he was so elevated on the pinnacle of present prosperity, that his head became giddy, and

and he argues from thence his future uninterrupted tranquillity ; an argument as much against Reason as Scripture, and the History of all ages. The Heathen Authors would have instructed him better in this case, had he consulted them, then his Priests and Spiritual Fathers did, whose Council was taken in all concerns of that Nature, as *Ovid*,

*Ante obitum nemo supremaque funera felix ;*

No man is Happy before death; that is, with an unmixed uninterrupted felicity which he challenged for his portion. *Seneca* in his Tragedies, *Nemo tam divos habuit faventes, crastinum ut possit sibi polliceri res: Deus nostras celeri citatas turbine versat.* No man hath Heaven so favourable to him as that he can promise himself to morrow; God by a swift whirlwind turns our affairs about as he pleaseth. He was not ignorant of the Stories of the great Conquerors of the World, the end of whose Reigns has been as miserable as the former part was prosperous; as *Cyrus*, *Alexander*, *Julius Caesar*, *Bajazet*, and innumerable others, heretofore : *Charles* the Fifth Emperor of Germany, his Grandfather *Henry* the Fourth King of France, and lately in his own time, *Carolus Gustavus* of Smeedland, &c. besides those recorded in Scripture, which he little minded, *Adonibezek*, *Saul*, *Amaziah* and others. But what shall we say, *Quo demencie ventum est.* What a degree of madness had the pride of his heart brought him to, together with the truly Fanatical delusions of the Jesuits ? Whom God for the frustrating their deep Diabolical Councils against his Church, leaves to as many irrational self-destructive Enthusiasms as any sort of Men whatever. That he from his present Victory should undertake to penetrate the determinate Councils of God, concerning his future felicity, and Prophecy that nothing was now remaining to interrupt his peaceable Government, was, according to Scripture, a certain presage of his imminent Destruction. There was enough within his own breast remaining, to interrupt his peaceable Reign for the future; a Proud and Tyrannical Heart, that put him upon the Ruling

ling the People in an Arbitrary manner, a blind bigotted Zeal for a Religion as irrational as unscriptural, and contrary to the Genius as well as Conscience of his people: without him there was a crew of self-seeking insatiable Priests and Jesuits, who to promote the Service of their Church, as they term it, (which being explained, is their own Bellies) spurred him on to prosecute their false measures which proved his ruin. Among which Father *Peters* was his chief Counsellor, who advised him to that most fatal violation of the Rights of *Magdalen Colledge in Oxford*, wherein he vainly boasts, as I shall shew hereafter when I come to it. There was a Numerous, Rich, and Potent Clergy remaining, who were not likely to give up their Religion and Livings at so easie a rate as he expected, for all their Doctrin of Non-Resistance. A Nobility, Gentry and Commonalty at home as Resolute to vindicate their Religion, Liberties and Properties, as he and his Popish crew were to invade them; a Protestant interest abroad, which for Number, Wisdom, Courage, Strength and Zeal were above his contempt, and among them the Prince and Princess of *Orange* the heads thereof, who all narrowly watched his steps, and whose own preservation was bound up in the preservation of the Protestant interest here, which they saw him endeavouring to extirpate. All these considerations, had he exercised his reason, might have restrained him from that presumptuous assertion, *That nothing was now remaining to interrupt his peaceable Government for the future*; but as the Scripture has predicted concerning his Mother *Babylon*, because she saith in her heart, *I sit a Queen and am no Widow, and shall see no sorrow, therefore shall her Plagues come in one day*; So it fared with her Son, when he cried, *Peace, Peace to himself, sudden destruction came upon him*. And I believe the fate of the Son is a forerunner of the fate of the Mother suddenly approaching.



SECT. XLV.

THE next thing I shall take notice of is the disappointment God brought upon them by the Parliaments refusal to comply with their Desires. Whereas they had resolved, after the Dissolution of the *Oxford* Parliament, never to call another till they were sure of one that would serve their Design; they were, by the Providence of God, necessitated for want of Mony to call a Parliament to settle the Revenue; in which and some other things they complied with them; but when they saw the Army headed with Popish Officers, they opposed it, and would by no means be brought to take off the Test, made by the long Parliament, to exclude Papists from all Places of Trust, Civil and Military: Which proved so strong a fence against Popery that they could never break it down. And since the Parliament were grown so refractory they were driven to their old shifts in the former Reign, of repeated Prorogation first, and after that, Dissolution, to the great provocation of the Nation and prejudice of their Cause.

SECT. XLVI.

ANother is the frustrating their expectations from the mighty Popish Engin, The Printing Press of that grand Apostate from the Protestant Religion, *Henry Hills*, who having been a Member of a Separate Church, but for scandalous life cast out from among them, easily finds another Church, where his Abominable Life would be no offense, even the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth; and to her he addresses himself, who glad of such a hopeful Son, readily embraces him in her Arms, lays him in her Bosom, and when Popery got into the Throne, none so fit for a Master to the Royal Press as he. He is dignified with

the Title of *Printer to the Kings most Excellent Majesty and his Household*; and truly the Household was very large. The whole Household of their Faith.

Out comes a Flood of Popish Pamphlets and Books on a sudden, the Royal Paper taken out of the *Strong Box* of our Dear Deceased Brother, by his Majesties Order, and attested by himself to be those Identick Papers there left. But how longsoever they had lain in the Strong Box, little strength was communicated to them thereby, nor by the Royal Signature and Authority conjoined; for notwithstanding all this mighty Power, the Arguments were very weak, and the contrivance in Publishing them weaker. For they produced nothing but a greater contempt of their Religion then ever; and occasioned so many Answers and Replies, and clear and full confutations, that they did them much more hurt then good.

Not long after his Majesty and his Holiness together, out of their Princely and Paternal Zeal for the Conversion of this Nation, to the Faith of their Ancestors, are at the charges of a Popish Catechism; which afforded much instruction to the Common People and Children who were ignorant of many of their Falsities and Fopperies before, and served for matter of Ridicule to their Parents and themselves at home, and their companions abroad; the very Streets and Ale-houses making a may-game of their Seven Sacraments, and other such like stuff as that was. So that the Nation was much more informed of the falshood and folly of their Religion, by their own Catechism, then ever.

#### SECT. XLVII.

**T**HE like fate had their weekly Sermons, preached by the most accomplished Persons at the Royal Chappel, as well as in the City; which came out with the stamp of Royal Authority, the more to commend them to the People; but Ser-

Sermons and Meetings had the same event. The one for Novelty sake frequented at first, to see their ways and Customs, the other for a few weeks bought up, but both turned into matter of derision and quickly neglected; insomuch that poor *Hills* having so bad success in the business of Conversion by the Press, as well as the Jesuits by the Pulpit, 'twas concluded that the only way to convert *England* was after the French mode, by a more powerful sort of Preachers, called *Apostolical Dragoons*.

Two things especially shewed them under a Divine Infatuation in managing the business of Religion.

The one was their Preachers imprudence in falling so early and so violently (before they had instilled lesser and easier Doctrins into the People) upon our English Bible, telling them it was stuffed with lyes. Which begot such prejudice and hatred against them, that the People would not lend an ear to any thing else they said, and proved a mighty hinderance to their Religion.

The other was their great folly in engaging in Controversies with Eminent Learned Protestants, who have always been as much superior unto them in strength of Argument as a Man to a Child. So that if they had consulted never so much how to ruin their Religion, they could not have found out a more effectual mean.

## SECT. XLVIII.

**I** May add the unsuccessfulness of their Councils as well as of their Sermons and Writings, and that Father *Peters* complains of in the Letter, which he is said to have writ, in these words, *Our Fathers are continually employed to convert the Officers, but their obstinacy is so great, that for one that turns there are five that had rather quit their Commands; and there are so many malecontents, whose Party is already but too great, the King has need of all his Prudence and Temper to manage this*

great affair. So that their private solicitations, though managed with all possible zeal and diligence, took little or no effect upon the Officers, to convert them, as they term it; and on the other hand the want of that Prudence and Moderation which was necessary, for that present, in turning several of them out of Command, only for constancy to their Religion, much alienated the heart of his own Illegal Army from him.

#### SECT. XLIX.

THE next thing I remember, is that great dementation they were under in turning their nearest Relations and most endeared Friends, every way qualified for their employments, out of Places of highest trust, upon the single account of refusing to renounce their Religion; as the Earl of *Rochester* (Brother to the Kings former Wife, and Uncle to the two Daughters next Heirs to the Crown) out of the Government of the Treasury, and Vice Admiral *Herbert*, of the Navy, and many others. This not only created some particular great and dangerous irreconcilable Enemies to themselves, but awakened all persons in publick Places to see what they must expect, without Apostacy from their Religion; and begot as many diligent and unwearied underminers of their Foundation as there were true Protestants in Trust throughout the Land. 'Tis like they thought by these Examples to turn the minds of the rest to submission to them; but it turn'd their studies wholly the other way (by the Lords influencing their Spirits) to the utter subversion of them.

#### SECT. L.

AS great a piece of infatuation as the other, was that of putting *Bellasis* and *Arundel*, whom the Parliament had impeached of High Treason and laid in the Tower, (and

(and would have prosecuted, if they might have fate to do it) into places of most eminent Trust, as that of the Treasury and Privy Seal; and making Father *Petre* a Jesuit, Privy-Councillor, where he was set to confront the Protestant Bishops *Canterbury* and *London* Face to Face, and be made the *Dominus fac totum* by degrees: And the granting him all that part of his Palace in which he himself used to reside, when D. of *York*, was the ready way to expose himself to the scorn of the Nobility, and the other to the hatred and envy of all the Nation, as accordingly it did. Some of the wiser sort among them, seeing these things, told the King, *That he made too much hast to establish the Faith*, which was very true; but their Council was slighted, and the King answered, *I growing old must make great steps, otherwise if I should die, I shall leave you worse then I found you.* But he over-stretched himself to his and their ruine.

S E C T. LI.

THE setting up the Ecclesiastical Commission was another; a Court so Arbitrary, that *Jeffreys* himself had no pretence of Law for it, but when demanded, By what Authority or Law they acted, answered, *They acted by the Kings Prerogative.* And their most unjust Proceedings against the Bishop of *London* in suspending him, a Man so popular, for nothing but refusing to obey the Kings Will, contrary to Law, by suspending Dr. *Sharp* without Citation or Juridical hearing.

S E C T. LII.

AND that Hyperbolical Act of Arbitrariness, the circumstances all consider'd, of turning above Forty Fellows and Collegiates, together with the President of *Magdalen* Colledge in *Oxford*, out of their Legal Possessions (as any Men in the Land held) for no cause, or pretence of cause,

cause, but refusing to turn out their lawful President, contrary to their Oaths, as well as the Laws of the Land and University, charging them with Rebellion upon that account; and when they lay Suppliants at his Feet, crying out, *Get you gone, I say, get you gone*, and refusing to hear them speak for themselves.

These things manifested a Celestial Blindness and Madness, compelling them on to their own Destruction: Nay, this was not thought punishment enough, to deprive them of their Free-holds for no cause, but they are made incapable of any Ecclesiastical Preferment or Exercise of Holy Orders, and all other ways of Livelihood which their Education qualified them for: Which so transcendent an Act of Injustice and Cruelty, proceeding from a King, who had so solemnly engaged his Faith to shew all Clemency and tenderness to his People, together with his filling up the Places with Popish Seminaries, to supply the Nation with Romish Priests, not only opened the eyes of all the Clergy, but of all the Nation also, to read their own Case in theirs, *That if they refused to obey any Commands, especially for promoting Popery, though never so contrary to Scripture, Law, Reason and Conscience, they must expect to be deprived of all their Liberties and Properties at once, and stigmatiz'd with the brand of Rebellion and Disloyalty to boot.* This kindled such a Fire of hatred in the Peoples Breasts, as never could be put out. And notwithstanding the great Advantages they promised themselves, by placing Jesuits in that famous Colledge, as appears by Father Petre's Letter to *Le Cheefe*, Confessor to the French King, which hath these Expressions, *I have gained a great point, in perswading the King to place our Fathers in Magdalen Colledge in Oxon, who will be able to tutor the young Scholars in the Roman Catholick Religion*; yet this politick Councillor was deceived in his measures; for they never lost a greater Point, both in relation to their Religion and Prerogative, then by this preposterous and precipitate Action, which to attempt before they



they had got the Test repealed, was a meer *Hysteron Proteron*, as our English Proverb hath it, *Putting the Cart before the Horse*.

SECT. LIII.

**T**HE unseasonable appearance of Priests and Jesuits in their Religious Habits, according to their several Orders, before the Nation had been leavened with their Doctrine, was an inconsiderate thing, and the way to hare and scare the People, or Mobile, as they were pleased to call them: And their publick Celebration of Funerals with the same Ceremonies as are used in Popish Countries, was as unadvised an Act as the other, whether it proceeded from his own Inclinations, or others Councils, and his expectations as well as theirs were frustrated herein; for whereas he desired, that all the Religious of what Order soever they be, should make open Profession as he did, not only of the Catholick Religion, but of their Order also, not approving that Priests or Religious should conceal themselves out of fear, but that they should wear the Habit of a Religious, and he would take care to defend them from Affronts: He was not able to make good his Obligation; for mangre all his Power and boasting, they were not only affronted in word by scorn and disdain, and all manner of reproachful Language, but also by Deed, both in their Meetings, and in the Streets, in City as well as Country, insomuch that several of them hardly escaped the hands of the Multitude with their Lives, being sorely bruised and wounded, notwithstanding the Military Force that came to their Rescue.

And as for their Confidence, That they had brought the People to be so accustomed to it already, that they were now out of danger from them, no body speaking a Word against it, as you may see in Father Petre's Letter: 'Twas no better then fool-hardiness; for the People both spoke and acted

acted against Popery so much, that they never left off till they had laid it equal with the ground, and trampled upon it with their Feet.

#### SECT. LIV.

**T**HE setting forth a Declaration for Liberty, whereby he undertook to dispense with Laws by sole Vertue of his Prerogative, was another; an Attempt which had miscarried in his Brothers time, which being done in the Interval of Parliaments, without their consent, when they came together, he was compelled to give up: Yet to run his Head against the same Wall where his Brother had been repelled with a bruised Fore-head, to re-attempt the setting up Liberty by force, not only without, but contrary to consent of Parliament, who had been tryed and found resolute against it, and therefore Dissolved; 'twas an act of great temerity, to say no more: For a most vain thing it was to imagine, that any Man of thought among the Dissenters could be wheedled into a Belief, that this Liberty was granted for their sakes, when it opened the Gap for Popery to come in to fill up all places Civil, Military, and Ecclesiastical also; and freed Papists from all Penalties and Restraints, by taking away the Oaths and Tests which had been made particularly against them; and to think that the Nobility, Gentry, Parliament and People should wink and lie still when they saw this Crocodile Popery coming with open Mouth to devour them, was a sign of Divine Percussion.

#### SECT. LV.

**L**ike to the former was that bare-fac'd Dissimulation of asserting, That he had never in any case invaded any Man's Property, since his coming to the Crown, notwithstanding all the Instances above-mentioned of his great Injustice

justice and Invasion of so many Mens Liberties and Properties, known to every individual Person in the Nation capable of understanding, and desiring to know the state of their Country; so that the very Argument he used to gain the Peoples belief of his Justice, made it impossible for them to believe he had, or ever would observe any. If this were not Divine Infatuation, the World never knew any. It carries the same Logical Force with this Argument. This or that Assertion is to be believed, because all the Nation know it to be an untruth.

As likewise that manifest Illusion offered to the People in those Words of his Second Declaration for Liberty, where he tells them, *That all unbyassed Men may see that he earnestly desired the establishing the Peace of the Nation, by the condition of his Armies, which should be constantly the same, and greater, if the Safety and Honour of the Nation required it.* Whereas his Army, headed with Popish Officers, was the great Cause of disquietness, as well as terror to both Parliament and People; and the promise of making them greater, if their safety required it, encreased their terror exceedingly, the Nation being in no Danger but from them. Shamming will not hold always.

## S E C T. LVI.

**A**Nother great infatuation was, in the sending a Letter to the *Hague* upon the Subject of the Test in order to know the Prince and Princesses mind upon that important point, whether they were willing to comply with the King, concerning the repealing of it; which produced an Answer thereto by Pensionary *Fagel*, the Prince's Minister at the *Hague*, which was publish'd and dispersed all over *England*, whereby the People came to understand the Prince and Princess to be against the taking off the Test, which much confirmed them in their Aversion to it, and mightily strengthened their Hand as well as

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Hearts to oppose it; especially considering that generous expression in the Letter, *That God had made them the Protectors of his Church*; which, at that time I, (and no doubt many others) observed to be of great Presage; so that the Letter which they sent thither, was the occasion of that sent hither, which discovered the great Cheat they had put upon the Nation before it came over, as if the Prince and Princess were ready to consent to every thing the King should propose to the next Parliament concerning the Test, and so produced very ill effects among the Hereticks, as Father *Petre* complains: For whereas at the return of several of their Fathers from those parts, they had perswaded them of the Prince's readiness to comply with the King, the coming of this Letter has served for nothing but to encourage the obstinate in their aversion in that matter, and says, That he was of Opinion that it had been better to have sent a Person able to Discourse and perswade, then to send a Letter; because all such Letters, when they are not grateful, produce bad effects; whereas that which is spoken Face to Face is not so easily divulged, nor any thing discover'd to the People, but what we are willing the Vulgar should know.

Thus you have a fresh Instance of the Lords carrying their Counsels head-long, by making the Letter they writ to the *Hague* for begetting a compliance with their design of taking off the Test, a mean to beget a mutual understanding of one anothers Minds between the Prince and Princess of *Orange* and People of *England*, and a joynt and stedfast resolution to oppose it.

## S E C T. LVII.

**A**Nother particular was the great Delusion God sent upon him, whereby he was so blinded, as to take Shadows for the Substance, and to lean upon a Reed; I mean, the vain Confidence he placed in the multitude of Addresses that were

were sent up to him; wherein, by way of Complement, they declared their great satisfaction in his Government, and resolution of Loyal Returns of Duty on their part, suitable to his Gracious Declaration; many of them engaging to stand by him with Lives and Fortunes, &c. and such like words of course, which he in the Appendix to the second Edition of his Declaration, calls *Assurances*. Whereas he might have learned by the experience of *Richard Cromwel*, (not so long ago Lord Protector of England to be forgotten) if he had nothing else to inform him what kind of Assurances Addressees were; who of all the three hundred thousand Life and Fortune Men that addressed him, found not three hundred, nor perhaps threescore faithful Friends to hazard any thing for the support of his Government in the time of Tryal. But as he proceeded *Secundum Artem* in his Promises to them, so did they in their Engagements unto him, according to *Cato's Rule*.

*Qui simulat verbis, nec corde est fidus amicus,  
Tu quoque fac similes, sic ars deluditur arte.*

Who feigns himself thy Friend by Words, but is not in his Heart,  
Feign thou thy self his Friend to be, so baffling Art by Art.

And how many of all those Addressors stood by him in the time of need, his dear-bought experience hath since proved.

S E C T. LVIII.

THE magnificent, though frivolous Embassie to *Rome*, was as great a piece of Impertinency as hath been acted in most Reigns; the excessive Cost and Pomp thereof for declaring the great Honour of his Majesty, which made

the Earth ring, and emptied no small number of his Coffers, what did it produce at the return home?

*Parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus Mus.*

*The Mountains on a time brought forth, and what was that great thing?*

*A poor ridiculous Mouse; the same which Castlemain did bring.*

He was after much waiting admitted to Audience with little esteem; for the Pope, well knowing how *England*, during all his Brothers Reign, had supported the Power of *France*, though contrary to the Will of Parliament and People both; and that he took the same measures with his Brother, in indissoluble Amity with the French King, who aspired after the Universal Monarchy, whereby He, as well as the Protestants round about must be brought to his Foot (notwithstanding all his pretended Zeal for the Catholick Religion, in the cruel Persecution of Protestants) regarded not the Embassie upon that account: And whereas 'twas expected, in return for that splendid and sumptuous Embassie, we should have had a return of vast Treasures of the Church, in Indulgences, and other Spiritual Wares, as *Agnus Dei's*, Crucifixes, Consecrated Swords, Beads, &c. the Nation was little enriched thereby; whatever was brought, it went all into the Privy Purse for the secret Service of the Court, whose sins were so many and so great, that they had occasion of much more Treasure then all the Bank of the Pope and Merits of the Church were sufficient to expiate. And this was the Fruit of our French Alliance of so many years continuance, whereby we promoted the Ruine of all Christendom, that his Holiness, as well as all other Princes, Catholick as well as Protestants, had no regard to Alliance with us, as Father *Petre* complains in his Letter to *Le Cheefe*. His Majesty of *England* received so little satisfaction from his Holiness in some Demands made by his Embassadour at *Rome*, which morally speaking, ought not to have been denied so great a King, who first made this step, which his Predecessors  
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for a long time were not willing to undertake, in sending his Embassador of obedience to *Rome*; and yet for all this our Holy Father had not any particular consideration of this submission and filial Obedience: So that that Embassie, by his confession who well understood the Design, Transactions and Result of it, proved a fruitless one; and all the Cost and Pomp of it, together with his submission and filial obedience, was little regarded by his Holy Father, which was a cause of great humiliation to one of his lofty Spirit, who as they themselves say, could not bear a denial. So the Lord frustrated this great undertaking also, and carried their Council headlong.

SECT. LIX.

THE great expectations they had from the Queens Delivery, of the enlarging and establishing their Religion, met with as great a Disappointment; for whereas the principal stress of their hopes lay in a Popish Successor which they confidently believed this Birth would produce and that the next Parliament would recognize and declare his undoubted Right to the Crown, and thereby the more part would be gradually brought over to their Religion, for fear of danger or hope of preferment; this GREAT CONCERN, as they called it, proved nothing but matter of Ridicule both at home and among the Protestant Countries abroad, very few of any persuasion looking upon it any otherwise then a cheat, like that in the days of Queen Mary, her Popish Predecessor, which *Fox* relates his Acts and Monuments. Papers were stuck up in derision of it in Churches and other places; to say nothing of the many Lampoons, Balads and Pictures, which were Published on that occasion; I shall only mention the Book King himself Published to the Nation about it, which a  
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proved unsatisfactory to those that read it, so it became the highest matter of Ridicule of all the rest. And no wonder, for it was so in its own nature; for never was a Royal Belly, Breasts, and the vestments belonging thereunto, together with the whole Mystery of Child-bearing (which Nature commands to veil) exposed in so gross a manner, and broad language since the World began: Insomuch that the people were more clearly instructed in the Mysteries of Nature, by this Book, than they had been by the Strong Box Paper, and Polish Catechism in the Mysteries of Religion. The Men every where affirming they never understood such and such things, though they had been for a long time married, till the King taught them, and that he had made them able to set up for Men-midwives; and the very Boys making may-games of those Royal Sacred things as expressed in the Paper, in such a manner as I judge neither consistent with gravity nor modesty to rehearse, and therefore shall forbear, lest I disparage my Book.

As for the Parliament, when they came together, they looked upon this *Great Concern*, as so insignificant a thing that they never took any notice of it, though the Prince of Orange had refer'd it to them in his Declaration; and the titular Prince of *Wales* was to them of as great value, as the Farthings, called by his Name, are to the People, who use to take them upon that account.

## S E C T. LX.

THE next remarkable infatuation I shall take notice of, is in the business of the Fleet, in two respects. The first, the Universal disgust they gave the Seamen, by a rigid exclusion of Customs from them for the smallest matters they exported or imported, much beyond what had been used in former times; which did them no small disservice when they most need of them. The second, their great security under

under a rational and evident prospect of danger, whereby they neglected to make provision of a Fleet adequate to theirs whom they had just cause, in divers respects, to fear; I mean the *Hollanders*. They knew the States well understood what the Romish Faith with Heretick was, what theirs in particular had been to them, as well as to their own and other Nations, by more then twenty years sad experience; how they endeavoured to impose the allowing the publick Profession of Popery upon them, in the French War; that Popery being got into the Throne here, if this Nation should be subdued by it, by the conjunction of the Forces of the Great Monarch of *England* brought wholly to his beck with that of *France*, their turn was like to be next; that they were a fore-seeing People, wary of danger a far off; that they made great preparation by Sea as well as Land, and yet neglected to make provision of a Fleet sufficient to secure their Coasts from them in case of the worst.

SECT. LXI.

**A**Nother great disappointment they met with, was in the project of Propagating the Doctrin of Arbitrary Government and absolute Prerogative from the Press, by the Pen of a Weekly *Observer*; which was designed by the long continuation thereof to instill those Principles into the People, till they were fully impregnated with them; and to say the Truth of him, he was as Faithful, Able, and Diligent a Servant in his Employment as ever they had any; and for a Tract of many years had been so succesful by his unwearied labours, like *Elymas* the Sorcerer his Type, *Acts* 13. 8 to 12. *Never ceasing to pervert the right ways of God*; that he perverted more Souls to that Diabolical Doctrin then all the Parasitical Priests of the Land. But now behold! this enemy of all Righteousness, full of all subtilty and mischief, who by his sharp sight in Politicks and acuteness

ness of his Pen, had turned so many from the Truth, is struck with blindness, and cannot see to act or write like a rational Creature. His Matter and Arguments for a long time were nothing else but *Idem per Idem*. His Papers stuffed with little but Tautologies, week after week, and month after month. His *Crambe* more then *Centies Cocta*, His Cabbage Hundreds of times boiled, how many I cannot reckon, yet still served up, till it grew so loathsome to most of his guests, that the very smell turned their Stomachs. Absolute subjection to Princes, with mannerly behaviour, that is, speaking softly of Popery, being the Duties insisted on in every Paper, and the contrary condemned for Rebellion; that at last those, who though they liked not his Principles, yet bought him for the sake of his Wit formerly; finding nothing but such fulsome stuff, by degrees neglected him, and so very few regarded him, that in the Coffee-houses the most part would not bestow the labour to read him. Thus he fell by his own weight. *Suis & ipsa Roma viribus ruit*. He left off Writing for want of Readers, and spoiled his Master's Design as well as his own, by over-doing. *Sic exit Observator*.

And now follow such a multitude of infatuations, one immediately succeeding another, that whether to call it a Series or Chain, I cannot tell which is most proper.

## S E C T. LXII.

**T**HE forcing the Declaration upon all publick Ministers, to be read in Churches on the Lords Day, at the seasons of Worship, as illegal as the Declaration it self: Commanding the Bishops to cause them to be distributed in all Parishes throughout their Diocesses.

S E C T. LXIII.

**T**HE imprisoning several of the most beloved among them in the Tower, for refusing to obey those Arbitrary Precepts, and giving Legal reasons for it. These were prodigious inconsiderate actions; and when I first heard of them I concluded, sure these Councils were given him by those who Designed his ruin thereby. The former was so absurd an attempt to adventure the alienation and irritation of the whole Clergy of the Land at once, that it afforded matter of astonishment. But the latter, of imprisoning the Bishops in the Tower, was the greatest expedient could be invented, to render them considerable in the Eyes of the Nation, by taking off the Contempt they lay under, for casting out the Bill of Exclusion, and so readily complying to exalt him to the Throne whom so many times the House of Commons, the Peoples Representative, had Voted to Exclude.

S E C T. LXIV.

**B**Ut sure never was a greater dementation then the Indicting and Trying them by a Juridical Process, for an action every way justifiable by the Laws of the Land; after they saw the whole Nation adore them as Champions for defending the Protestant Religion, and their great Revenues which were like to fall with it; and to give them free liberty to chuse what Council they would, without assignment, who chose almost all of them Disgusted Courtiers, turned out of their Places, and as able Advocates and zealous Church-men as the Benches knew. And the exposing the Prerogative or Dispensing Power to a Tryal at Law, before the Tests were Legally Abrogated, while the Parliament, Lawyers, (all but a few Mercenary Vassals) Clergy, and generality of the People were so incensed against it, by reason of the Popish Of-

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ficers in the Army, and principal Places of State, Ecclesiastical Commission, College of *Oxford*, Declaration, &c. had the manifest signature of Celestial blindness upon it. And the clearing the Bishops, who the people looked upon now as the great assertors of the Protestant Religion and Laws, with the damning of dispensing Power, so animated the people, that there was ringing of Bells, Bonfires, and Protestant Huzzaes all the Land over, and in divers places burning of Popes to boot. This gave such a wound to Popery and Arbitrary Government together, that never could be healed.

#### SECT. LXV.

**Y**ET notwithstanding all this, the Ecclesiastical Commission goes on resolutely, to summon all the Clergy who refused to read the Declaration to appear before them, and resolving to suspend them, if not worse; and now the Reverend Doctor *Sprat*, one of the Illegal Commissioners, finds his heart begin to fail, fearing what would be the end of these superlatively desperate attacks upon the Nation; whereupon he deserts the rest of his Brethren Commissioners, and by a Letter publisht gives better reason for it then he could for acting in it; and not only saves his own Stake, but gives Prerogative a fresh wound. This was an unforeseen and unhappy accident.

And now or never it is time for the Clergy to cast away that Idol of their own making, the Doctrine of Non-resistance, when the Nation long before brought to a deplorable State by it, and now themselves also, are instantly ready to perish. The common people had too long been led by blind guides in this path of Destruction, till their Religion, Laws, Liberties and Properties, were at the mercy of Popery and Prerogative: Some of them indeed had discerned the delusion imposed upon them long ago, as well as of the Nobility and



## Twenty nine Years Wonders in England 123<sup>124</sup>

and Gentry, or else the Nation had been utterly lost; but the Clergy who for the generality of them had so strenuously maintained it, though against Scripture, Law, Sense and Reason, being ashamed to recant, were very backward in giving it up; but now they must give up their Doctrin, or Livings, Liberties, and, for ought they knew, their Lives also; they take it into serious consideration, and by the help of some new found or used Distinctions, it went down with the most part of them also; they therefore bethink themselves of such means as Scripture and Reason, yea, Sense itself dictates for self-preservation, and find no expedient left but the once abominated thing called Association. And accordingly (to use the very words of the Declaration) *a great many Lords Spiritual and Temporal, many Gentlemen and other Subjects of all Ranks, earnestly sollicite the Prince of Orange to come over to their Rescue.* Which earnest solicitation of theirs he complies with, and forthwith prepares with all possible diligence, coming with the first opportunity, though with exceeding great hazard and cost, and is honoured by God to be the Instrument of *Englands* deliverance from Poverty and Slavery.

But had not the Doctrin of Non-resistance been at last renounced, and the Doctrin of Association embraced in stead thereof, what had become of the Protestant Religion and our Native Country both?

To improve this particular of Non-resistance to my purpose, a wonderful Hand of God was seen, by making use of the contrary Doctrin to the silencing all Enthusiastical people, who are against the use of Rational means for deliverance in time of danger; pretending we must sit still and wait upon God, committing our case unto him, and expect his Salvation, without using means proper to bring about the end. I shall just mention four wonderful things worthy to be had in remembrance for ever.

## SECT. LXVI.

**F**irst, That the Lord should suffer that Delusive Doctrin to prevail so long, and so far, over the Nation, till Religion and Liberty were at the last gasp.

Secondly, That he should make use of that Argument, of the last Extremity, to convince those of the Unscripturality and Irrationality of the Doctrin, whom nothing else would convince.

Thirdly, That though by this Doctrin of the Clergy, the Nation and themselves were brought to the brink of Destruction, yet the Lord should shew so much mercy to it and them, as to give them so much time, as by Practising the Doctrin of Resistance, to deliver themselves: I mean by inviting the Prince over to help them, and assisting him when he came hither.

Fourthly, By the Practice of the Doctrin of Resistance, to bring to nought all the Counsels of our Popish Enemies, which for so many years had Plotted our Destruction, upon the encouragment they took from this Doctrin of the Church of *England*, Non-resistance. Which made the Popish Party conclude, that having a Popish Prince upon the Throne, their design could not fail, because 'twas contrary to the Doctrin of the Church of *England* to resist their Governors. And though they derided us for it, and presumed to destroy us by it, yet the Lord disappointed their crafty Devices, and took them in their own craftiness, turning the Peoples hearts quite another way, when the time of Tryal came.

The Tide of Ebb runs very strong from this time forward; fresh disappointments and insatuations with cross

cross Providences fall upon them every day more and more.

SECT. LXVII.

**T**He Soldiers at the Camp mutiny upon account of differences falling out between Papists and Protestants; Duels fought, murders committed among themselves, and the People wishing they would proceed to the end of the Chapter, that they might be rid of their Oppressors, both Popish Teagues, and Damming Protestants: All that the King himself can do by his Presence, Power and Perswasion, scarcely suffices to compose them.

The Protestant Officers at *Portsmouth* refuse to receive Irish Catholicks, which the Duke of B----- their Governour offered to impose upon them, rather quitting their Commands, then complying with a Popish Design; a right generous Spirit. They are sent for up, treated disgracefully by the way; and when they come there, tryed by a Council of War, but cleared, contrary to the Will of one, who gladly would have had their Blood. And the forcing Irish Catholicks upon the Nation, though under pretence of being our Fellow-Subjects, when the Nation was in such a Paroxysm by the fear of Popery already, especially upon *Portsmouth*, the Inlet from *France*, which every body judged done for that end; and Injury done to those worthy Officers for their faithfulness to their Country and Religion, had as great an Influence upon their Overthrow as most things went before; for the report of it presently spread over all the Army and Nation, and let the very Damme Protestants see their own fate at hand, incensing the People still more against them. So that this Project also shewed they were acted by great Dementation.

About this time, as I remember, the Mayor of *Scarborough* Imprisoning, or at least highly affronting the Minister, for refusing

refusing to read the Illegal Declaration, was by the Soldiers tossed in a Blanket for his Popish Zeal, the Soldiers doing better Justice upon him, in their way of Military Execution, then he had done upon the Minister by Civil, indeed more properly uncivil. But as he had acted a Doggish part upon the Minister, biting him without a Cause, so he was treated in a Dog-like manner by the Soldiers, who instructed him in better manners, by a more pleasant Invention then that of *Gideon*, who for their uncivil Behaviour, took Briers and Thorns, and with them taught the Men of *Succoth*.

## S E C T. LXVIII.

**T**HE Regulators of Corporations, a new sort of Ministers of State, never before heard of, about the same time fell into Disgrace, not with their Popish Master, whose faithful mercenary Drudges they had fully proved themselves to be, but with the Gentry and wiser sort of People, whom they had (according to their Commission) attempted to debauch, by endeavouring to get their promise of voting for Election of such Persons to sit in Parliament, as would serve the King's, and all the Papists ends; by taking away the Tests made by the long Parliament, to keep them out of all Places of Trust, and thereby save the Nations from Popery.

A sort of Reformers they were, but much differing from the first Reformers of our Religion; for whereas the business of our first Reformers of ever-blessed Memory, was to drive Popery out of our Land; the business of these new Reformers of Corporations was to demolish the Walls of the Protestant Religion, and let Popery in again. But notwithstanding all Wheedling used by their Master in his Declaration, and and his Ministers in their great Employment of Regulation, all came to little: Some hot-headed shallow-brain'd Dissenters were drawn into their Snare, but the soberer and wiser sort scorned their base motion, and put them by with contempt.

12

*Twenty nine Years Wonders in England.* 127

tempt. And as I am certainly informed, one Place, to shew the Veneration they had for their Character, would not suffer them to go out of Town on foot, but carried them out in a Wheel-barrow Whether: 'twere so or not, matters not much; sure I am, if all the rest had received that Honour, they had been treated according to their deserts.

S E C T. LXIX.

**T**HE Prince of *Orange's* Declaration now coming abroad, a Proclamation comes out to deter all People from reading, or hearing it read, under pain of great Severities, which turned to meer ridicule, not only upon account of the People's slighting it, but the mutability of their Councils, who in a little while after publish'd it themselves; and the remarks or reflexions upon it were so grossly fallacious, that instead of doing service to their Cause, the Author only shewed the World that little skill he had in the Art of Prevarication.

S E C T. LXX.

**A**Nother Proclamation is issued out, which much more exposed them to the hatred and scorn of the People, and gave a fresh Evidence that they were struck with blindness, so that they groped at Noon-day as in the Night. They forbid all Persons of what estate or condition they be, that they presume not to intermeddle with the Affairs of State and Government, or with the Persons of any of our Counsellors or Ministers in their common and ordinary Discourses, as they will answer the contrary at their utmost peril. 'Tis a Proclamation to restrain the spreading of false News, wherein he complains of the insignificancy of all his Shampardons and promises of Grace and Favour, though they had been so often reiterated, and one so lately publish'd, where-

wherein he had extended his Royal Mercy and Clemency to all his Subjects to so little purpose, in regard it had not wrought suitable effects, &c. But alas! what did all this Cant of Mercy and Clemency, Grace and Favour avail at this time a day, when the Nations patience was quite worn out with his Arbitrariness and Injustice both before and after he came to the Throne! The People had not forgotten who it was that protected those that burnt the City, and shelter'd them from Justice: To say no more; Who 'twas that was the principal Cause of all the Plots for the destruction of their Nation as well as Religion; that was the Procurer of the Prorogation and Dissolution of so many Parliaments, as well as of the Death of those Honourable Patriots of their Country, *Russel, Sidney, Armstrong, Cornish*, and the rest: The Instances of the *West* before-mentioned, perpetrated by his Commission; the mercy shewed to *Oats, Dangerfield, Johnson*; the Case of *Magdalen Colledge*, imprisoning the Bishops, turning Protestants out of places of the greatest Trust, Civil and Military, with many other of the same Nature, were fresh in their Memories; and this deep project of hiding his unjust Disposition, under those fawning Expressions, was all in vain. Certainly those Ministers who indicted such Proclamations and Declarations are none of the highest Wits in the World, however they are cryed up for their great Abilities in State-Affairs. Do they think the People destitute of Reason, that they cannot discern when Mens Words and Deeds contradict each other? *Quid Verba audiam, cum facta videam?* They go about to treat the People like Fools, and thereby prove themselves to be so. And to endeavour to possess the Nation with the sense of the danger they lay under from the intended Invasion of the Prince of *Orange*, whom they knew to be their assured Friend, and whose undertakings were occasioned by the most earnest Solicitations of a great many Lords both Spiritual and Temporal, and many Gentlemen and Subjects of all ranks, and whose



whose coming was to rescue their Religion, Laws and Liberties from the invasion he and his Popish confederates had made upon them; What could such a bare faced wheedle produce but universal contempt?

SECT. LXXI.

**T**HAT nervous Argument which he uses to urge the people to the sense of their duty in coming in to his help in this great exigency, deserves not to be omitted. He presses them to come in to his aid and assistance from the Obligation of natural Allegiance with which they were bound to him, whose Government over them had been so unnatural and illegal. As if the unquestionable indispensable obligations the Law of Nature and Scripture, as well as the Law of the Land laid upon them, to seek the preservation of their Persons, Families, Country and Religion, were all cancelled by his coming to the Throne; and we were by the Law of Nature bound to help him who was endeavouring with all his might to destroy them all, against those who were coming over to hazard their own Lives for our deliverance out of his Hands. But this is the common maxim of such as make their Will their Law, that they have a natural right to the Government, which, whatever violations they make of the Laws of Nature by invading the Rights and Liberties of the people, cannot be forfeited. But sure I am this is an unnatural argument as well as inartificial; for though I will not here dispute the point whether there be any such thing as a natural right to Government, yet as to the case in hand, I assert that the Law of Nature, which is Reason, tells us that the obligation between Prince and People is mutual, and their duty of subjection to him, grounded upon his protection of them, and when he had broken the Law of Nature by such a course of Arbitrary Government, in so many violations of Mercy and Justice,

to tell the people they are bound by the Law of Nature to assist him against those that come to break his grievous yoke off their necks, favours of a manifest Infatuation.

### SECT. LXXII.

**T**HEY forbid all Persons of what Estate or condition soever they be, that they presume not to intermeddle with the affairs of State and Government, or with the persons of any of our Councillors or Ministers in their common and ordinary discourses, as they will answer the contrary at their utmost peril. The Royal Person must not now be saved alone, but all the Ministers also. Prerogative was come to a greater height here, than in all Ages and Parts of the World ; it made the very Persons of *Jeffreys* and *Peters*, and all the rest of that Gang so sacred, that none must dare to speak of them in ordinary Discourse. Oh, the mighty Power of Prerogative, that should transubstantiate the Persons of these Hellish Monsters into such sacred Substances in a Moment ! This profound Project for silencing the People, served to make them sport in all places, for a great while after.

### SECT. LXXIII.

**T**HE Declaration put out *November* 6th the next day after the Prince of *Orange's* happy arrival, for the great and glorious Work of our Deliverance is compounded of the like ingredients, which afford nothing but matter of Ridicule or just Satyr.

In the beginning he tells us, *He could not consider the invasion of the Prince of Orange without horror* ; which I believe was true enough, for his guilty Conscience that accused him of all the injustice he had acted against his People was enough to strike him with horror, if at any time he durst hearken

hearken to, and consider what that spoke, which could speak nothing else but vengeance, if Reason or Scripture were consulted. But though the Horror might be real upon account of the Reasons forementioned, yet the Reasons assigned by him were feigned, though I cannot say fallacious, because so frivolous.

He would perswade the Nation that his Horror was for so Unchristian and Unnatural an undertaking, in a Person so nearly related to him. An Unchristian undertaking, he terms it, whereas it was one of the clearest and highest acts the Christian Religion teaches. Not only an act of Mercy, (which Christ himself tells us is to be preferred above Worship, *Matth. 12. 7.* even in the smallest acts of it, as pulling a simple Sheep out of a ditch, *vers. 11.*) but of as great mercy as perhaps any Age can produce; to pluck three Nations out of a ditch, which they were fallen into by the contrivance of him and his Popish Councillors, and were like to have perished in, without sudden relief. And as for this undertaking of the Prince of *Orange*, and all his worthy concomitants in the same, who hazarded their lives for the deliverance of their Protestant Brethren from his Popish yoke, there was nothing more consonant to the Old or New Testament, of whom we may say with thanksgiving, as *Psal. 60. 4.* *The Lord gave to them that feared him, a banner, that it might be displayed because of the Truth.* Selah. God put that opportunity into their hands, to take up Arms for the defence of the Protestant Religion, as their banners expressed, and gave them victory over the Popish party, their and our enemies, with very little shedding of blood; they came to relieve the oppressed and break the yokes we groaned under, a duty much pressed by the Old Testament, *Isa. 1. 17.* and *58. 6.* They came to let the oppressed go free: nay, they came to lay down their lives for their Brethren in the True Religion, according to that Gospel precept, *1 John 3. 16.* an action so highly Christian, that it seems the very top-

stone of the Christian Religion, as plainly manifesting any Mans love to be of the same nature with the love of Jesus Christ to us. *Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us : and we ought to lay down our lives for the Brethren.* To say they had by self-ends in this undertaking, is no more then one may object against the best actions in the World, and there being nothing to prove it, is to say nothing to the purpose for which it is intended, and is indeed a malicious slander; the same that the profane ungodly Men of the Earth object against all that live godly, *that they are but Hypocrites in all they do.* The maintaining of the Protestant Religion, and the Laws and Liberties of these Kingdoms, and securing to us the enjoyment of all our just Rights, were the things for which the Prince first declared, and have been since punctually performed as far as could be in so little time; and we pray and hope that the Lord will give him grace, not only to persevere in so good a work, but to make a daily progress therein all the days of his life, that as his hands have begun to lay the foundation of this glorious Work, so they may also finish it.

Thus you see how frivolous the reflexion of Unchristian upon this most Christian undertaking is. Another altogether as absurd, is that of Unnatural, because the Prince was a person so nearly related to him; as if the obligations we are under to God and True Religion, were not of greater force, then any we lye under to natural relations, who set themselves in opposition to both; as if the Duty of seeking our own and Countries good did not supersede that of seeking the good of our relations who endeavour to destroy it, and us both; as if the case of the Princess his Protestant Wife and the securing her right to the Succellion, as well as his own, were not a sufficient warrant of it self for the Prince to oppose an Uncle and Father in Law, who used all the means he could to deprive them of their Right, by putting the Power of the Nations into the hands of Papists, contrary

to Law, and subjecting it to a Foreign Power of a contrary Religion, whereby the Kingdoms, their inheritance, would have been destroyed, and themselves excluded from the Throne.

S E C T. LXXIV.

**T**HOSE shamming expressions about the miseries and calamities which the Prince's Army must unavoidably bring upon the Land, which was the matter of his greatest trouble to reflect on, (if you will believe him) the people read with an Eye of disdain; for they were so far from any fear of this formidable Army of Foreigners and Rebels, that they embraced them with all endearing kindness, as those who came to deliver them from him and his illegal standing Army, who were really formidable to them, and from all the calamities and miseries they had been overwhelmed with, during his and his Brothers Reign, and without whose help they were even ready to expire.

S E C T. LXXV.

**H**IS complaint of the Prince as the sole Obstructor of a Free Parliament, under the pretence that a Parliament could not be Free while an Army of Foreigners was in the Land, was worded with as much wisdom and sincerity as all that went before; for 'twas well known what a Free Parliament he was procuring for us, before he heard of the Prince's undertaking, by endeavouring by his mercenary instruments to debauch all the Counties and Corporations in *England*, by promises and threatnings to engage before-hand to Elect such Members as would certainly answer his ends, to take away all the Tests and Penal Laws from Papists, and so let in Popery as a flood upon us; and 'twas clear to all the Nation, that without the help of an Army of Protestant Foreigners

Foreigners we were never like to have a Free Parliament again, so that all this *Fucus* served to no other end than to make his face still more unlovely.

SECT. LXXVI.

**A**S for the ambitious Design he charged the Prince with, *Of coming over for nothing less than his Crown, whatever specious pretences he made*; the Prince's Declaration confutes it fully in these words, *We will refer to a free Parliament the enquiry into the birth of the pretended Prince of Wales, and of all things relating to it, and to the right of Succession*; and the Prince's practice was punctually consonant to his promise, for he procur'd a Free Parliament, left the business of the pretended Prince of *Wales* wholly to the Parliaments determination, who did not think the pretence of the Prince of *Wales* worthy their consideration, but in a short time after their coming together, rendered the Crown of their own accord to the Prince and Princess of *Orange*, praying them to accept it, and that not only upon the account of gratitude to him as their deliverer from Popery and Slavery; but the intire confidence they had in his Wisdom, Courage, and Faithfulness to preserve them from the same for the future; as is clear by the Declaration of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons Assembled at *Westminster* 12th of February 1688. whose very words I shall recite.

*It hath pleased Almighty God to make his Highness the Prince of Orange the Glorious Instrument of Delivering this Nation from Popery and Arbitrary Power.*

And in another place, *The Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons being now Assembled in a full and free Representative of this Nation, taking into their serious consideration the best means for attaining such an establishment, as that their Religion, Laws, and Liberties may not again be in danger of being subverted, do in the first place (as their Ancestors have done in the like case)*  
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## *Twenty nine Years Wonders in England. 135*

*declare, &c.* then they mention several particulars of their undoubted Rights and Priviledges, which had been violated in the Reign of *Charles the Second* and *James the Second*, and claim, demand, and insist upon them, asserting that no Declaration, Judgments, Doings or Proceedings to the prejudice of the people in any of the said premises ought in any wise to be drawn into consequence or example hereafter. To which demand of their Rights they say they are particularly encouraged by the Declaration of his Highness the Prince of Orange, as being the only means for obtaining a full Redress and Remedy therein, adding what follows,

*Having therefore an intire confidence, that his said Highness the Prince of Orange, will perfect the Deliverance so far advanced by him, and will still preserve them from the violation of their Rights which they have here asserted, and from all other attempts, upon their Religion, Rights, and Liberties; The said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons Assembled at Westminster, do Resolve,*

*That William and Mary Prince and Princess of Orange be, and be declared King and Queen of England, France, and Ireland, and the Dominions thereunto belonging, &c. and the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal and Commons do pray the said Prince and Princess of Orange to accept the same accordingly.* So that although the Prince of Orange hath since accepted the Crown at the free Offer and Request of the Peoples Representatives (as freely chosen as ever any were in England, without the least violence or corruption, as was practised in the two last Reigns) together with the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, who gave it him upon account of his Virtues, and for their own deliverance and preservation, Where is any room left for malice it self to calumniate his unstained honour with Ambition in this most Glorious undertaking? His Title to the Crown (vacated by misgovernment and desertion) together with that of his Royal Consort, both upon the account of their Merits from, and free Donation of the  
People

People is so good and clear, that no History can produce one more clear and Honourable ; notwithstanding the slanderous reflection of the late King *James* his Declaration above-mentioned.

# SECT. LXXVII.

**I** Shall mention one more high strain of Eloquence in this Declaration, wherein he gave full proof of his great attainments in the Art of Dissimulation, as deep a fetch in Politicks as any he was guilty of. In order to perswade the people to come in to his part, he promises them, *as soon as the Kingdom should be delivered from this Invasion, he would call a Parliament, so free that it should be liable to no objection, in which he would be ready To repeat and confirm the Assurances he had already given them, in his several Declarations, of his resolution by Gods blessing to maintain them in their Religion, Liberties, and Properties, and all other their Just Rights and Priviledges.* And upon these considerations, and the obligation of their Duty and natural Allegiance, he can no way doubt but that all his loving Subjects will readily and chearfully join with him for the entire suppression of those Enemies and Rebels, &c. His promise to repeat and confirm all the former assurances he had given them of maintaining their Religion, Liberties, and Properties, &c. which had every one of them been violated, was a powerful consideration indeed to move the People to believe him for the future, and to join with him to subdue those who were come to redress all the miseries they laboured under. Thus all his actions and arguments carry the visible signs of Infatuation, and render his case the more incurable.

S E C T. LXXVIII.

AND truly the Prayers which they set forth, and enjoin'd the People upon this occasion, carried the mark of Infatuation, as well as their Proclamations; for one Clause in them was, *To pray for the preservation of their Religion*, which being so over-powred by Popery getting into the Throne, was as much as to bid them pray for pulling it out, and for the Prosperity of the Prince of *Orange's* Expedition, who came to deliver us from it. This surely was from Heaven, had the very Finger of God upon it, that they should meet with such thick darkness in the day-time.

S E C T. LXXIX.

A Proclamation of Pardon comes out afresh, *Novemb. 22.* to all, as well Subjects as Strangers who had joyned with the Prince of *Orange*, upon condition of Deserting him in twenty days, and coming over to his own Colours. The People had been so surfeited with his Pardons before, and were so well acquainted with his faith-breaking, and above all, were past any need of them by the Princes help and protection, that they made little other use of that Proclamation then to stir up mirth and light pipes of Tobacco: and it was so far from producing the desired effect, that his own Army deserted him more and more dayly, and the Princes encreased exceedingly, by the accession of the Country and his Deserters. The Lord *Cornbury* with his Regiment, together with divers other Lords, Knights, and Gentlemen, had forsaken him and gone over to the Prince at *Exeter*, and now the Prince of *Denmark* and Duke of *Ormond* go away from him and join the Prince; and his Army notwithstanding this gracious Proclamation moulders away more and more.

SECT. LXXX.

**H**IS Navy, in like manner, by the Lord's confirming and corroborating their hearts shew great Sincerity, Constancy and Resolution, in adhering to the Protestant Religion, and let their Commanders say or do what they would resolve One and All never to Fight against their Protestant Brethren who came to deliver the Nation from Popery, for which they deserve to be highly encouraged and honorably recorded to Posterity.

SECT. LXXXI.

**A**S for the Multitude, or Common People, since these two last Reigns, slanderously termed, *The Mobile*, by way of contempt, because haters of their Popish Designs, and upon that account formidable to them at all times, especially since the Discovery of the Plot; their zeal for their Religion and Liberties waxed so hot in City and Country both, that all the Power of his Militia and standing Forces, could not hinder them from breaking down Mass-houses, Images, and all manner of Popish Instruments, haling their Priests to Prison, and driving them all into corners; neither did the Irish, who were sent for over to suppress any commotion by them, dare to oppose them; in which, as well as all the foregoing instances, the Lord frustrated their expectations.

SECT. LXXXII.

**A**ND now the Popish King is hard beset on every side, and reduced very near to his Wits-end; one or two shifts more puts a period to all. Being on the last extremity, he leaves the remainder of his Army, which he knew not how

## *Twenty nine Years Wonders in England 139*

how to trust, at *Salisbury*, and hastes away to *Windsor*, and dispatches away Commissioners to Adjust matters with the Prince about the Sitting of the Parliament, for whose Sitting he had Issued out Writs, the Design being to keep the Prince's Army from coming to *London*, for then all was lost. But the Prince proposing the Disbanding and Disarming all Papists, and persons not qualified by Law, and removing them from all employments Civil and Military: The delivering the Tower of *London* and *Tilbury* Fort into the City, and *Portsmouth* into such hands as he should name, to secure it against the French Landing, with other conditions destructive to Popery. He by advice of his Popish Council goes away privately, giving a most just occasion to the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, together with the City of *London*, to invite the Prince to take the Administration of Government, and protection of them upon him, and Summon a Parliament to sit, Jan. 22. who when they Convened, by their Declaration, Feb. 12. Decree this Righteous Judgment,

*That James the II. having endeavoured to Subvert and Extirpate the Protestant Religion, Laws, and Liberties of the Kingdom, and Abdicated the Government, the Throne is thereby become vacant; and Set the Prince and Princess of Orange thereon, whose Throne the Lord establish in Truth, Righteousness and Mercy.*

Thus you see how God disappointed all his Devices, carried his Councils headlong, and Snared him in the work of his own hands, having before necessitated him to give up his Daughters in Marriage to two faithful and zealous Protestant Princes, who for the preservation of the Protestant Religion became principal Instruments of frustrating all his Popish Designs; which action of theirs is so far from Unnatural and  
Un-

*The Sacred History of God's last, &c.*

Unchristian, that it is one of the greatest proofs of Christianity, and deserves to be celebrated with the Highest praises of all succeeding Ages. To conclude all, I shall add, God made him the instrument of his own ruin by his Popish blind zeal, Illegal Administration, and at last Desertion of the Government; upon which I shall leave this Pyramidal Chronogramme for the use of Posterity,

REGN. ABDIC.

A JACOB. SECUND.

REG. PAP. (NI FALLOR) ULT.

EVENIT ANNO DOM. 1688.

RELIG. ET LIBERTAT. ANGLIÆ.

A GUL. NASS. PRINC. AUR. RESTITUT. P.

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**FINIS.**



